



DHS Guidance Department

Danvers High School 60 Cabot Road, Danvers MA 01923

danverspublicschools.org/dhs/guidance-department/

Danvers High School Class of 2026 College Planning Process

SENIOR NEXT STEPS

September 2025

Applications

Students should create a Common Application account and start to chip away at the questions. If your college is not on the Common App, you'll need to go directly to the school's website to apply.

Naviance Steps

Students will need to match their Naviance with their Common App. A complete application includes the high school transcript, a counselor letter of recommendation, and usually two teacher letters of recommendation. Colleges receive these documents directly from high school counselors via Naviance. Students must request the transcript and teacher letters of recommendation in their naviance account. Students do not need to request the counselor letter of recommendation, but they do need to make sure they completed the "Brag Sheet" under surveys in Naviance.

College Meeting with Your Counselor

A college meeting with your Counselor is required for all students who plan to apply to colleges. We will review your list of schools, and go over the college application process in as much detail as needed. We confirm that you have linked your naviance / common app properly, and confirm that you requested letters of recommendation and transcripts on naviance.

College Essay

The first quarter of senior English, no matter which English elective students choose, is introduced by a unit that focuses on narrative writing. Students craft personal statements that *may* become their college essays. Students can get support for their college essays from their English teachers and their school counselor.

DHS College Visits

Over 50 colleges will send admissions representatives to Danvers High School throughout the Fall and seniors can sign up on Naviance or in the guidance office in order to attend these brief information sessions. Attendance at these meetings is beneficial as it helps the student learn more about a school they may or may not have visited yet, and is looked at favorably by the admissions rep because it "shows interest".

Financial Aid Estimator / Net Price Calculator

Use the net price calculator on a college's website as this will be a very accurate estimate of your financial aid for this school.

October - November 2025

Early Decision

Early Decision is a binding agreement between a student and their family, their School Counselor, and the school. If they are accepted Early Decision they have agreed to attend. This is a good choice for a handful of students who know what their first choice school is, want to increase their chances of acceptance to that competitive school, and their family knows they are able to afford this school. Backing out of an early decision agreement, while possible for financial reasons, reflects negatively on all parties who agreed to the commitment.

Early Action

Early Action is most commonly November 1st, 5th, or 15th but can be earlier for some schools in the South and later for other schools. A student would apply Early Action if they have a strong resume and transcript, and / or are looking for a competitive major, and they are all ready to submit their materials for an early deadline vs waiting another month or so for the regular deadline. The benefit is finding out which schools you are accepted to earlier on in senior year. Some schools have a higher admit rate within the early action pool of applicants but this is not true for all schools or programs.

December 2025 - January 2026

Regular Decision

Applying to schools Regular Decision is a traditional, non committal, way to apply to college. Usually regular decision deadlines are December 15, January 1, January 15, and February 1. Applying Regular Decision is beneficial because these later winter deadlines provide more time to complete applications. If your semester 1 Senior year grades will be stronger than Junior year and your application will benefit from being reviewed holistically with your grades, this is a great option. You will just have to be okay with finding out your acceptances later on in the school year.

February - April 2026

Scholarships

Danvers Local Scholarships are offered exclusively online at GoingMerry.com. There are many other scholarships available and posted to Naviance throughout senior year. Students will create accounts, complete the profile, add Danvers High School into education, select "Local Only" and begin applying to the over 100 local scholarships offered to DHS students. The biggest factor in determining who will earn the most is the total number of applications submitted and GPA. You can be interested in any career and earn money as long as you put in the effort.

June 2026

Graduation