



Senior Family Night: The College Application Process August 18, 2026

**Walton High School
School Counseling Department**

**ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS**

WHO IS YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR?



Mrs. Clary
A - Ch



Dr. Alpert
Ci - G



Mrs. Dunham
H - K



Mrs. Watford
L - N



Mrs. Jackson
O - SI



Mrs. Fay
Sm - Z

SUPPORT STAFF



Dr. England
College Advisor
Scholarship & Volunteer
Service Hours Coordinator



Mrs. Schrenk
Records Room Clerk

SCHOOL COUNSELING & CLASS OF 2027 WEBSITES



[Home](#) [Information](#) [Class 2025](#) [College Corner](#) [Presentations](#) [Resources](#)

Walton High School Counseling Department

1590 Bill Murdock Road • Marietta, GA 30062
Tel: 770.578.3225 • Fax: 770-578-3227

[New Student Enrollment Information](#) [Upcoming Events](#)

www.waltonhighcounseling.com



[Home](#) [Calendar](#) [Information](#) [Class 2027](#) [College Corner](#) [Presentations](#) [Resources](#)

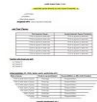
Class of 2027



[Step-by-Step College Application Guide](#)



[Teacher Letter of Recommendation Form](#)



[Postsecondary Options Packet](#)



[SchoolLinks Guide](#)



[Common App User](#)



[Senior Presentations](#)

www.waltonhighcounseling.com/class2027

STAY CONNECTED

FOLLOW US ON OUR

SOCIAL
MEDIA



@waltonhighcounselors



@waltoncounselor



@waltonhighcounselors



@walton_counselors

Scan QR code to follow us on your
preferred social media platform



Made with PosterMyWall.com

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Parents

- **CTLS Parent**
- **PTSA EBLAST**
- **Senior Page on Walton website**

Students

- **CTLS Homeroom**
- **Cobb Email**
- **SchoolLinks**

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

College Admission Factors

A light gray downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the first step to the second.

College Application Process

A light gray downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the second step to the third.

Walton Statistics

A light pink downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the third step to the fourth.

Financial Aid & Scholarships



College Admissions Factors

ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS

FACTORS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

**Extracurricular
Activities**

Essays

**Letters of
Recommendation**

**Demonstrated
Interest**

RIGOR OF CLASSES

GRADES & GPA

TEST SCORES



POINTS TO CONSIDER

Check admissions requirements by visiting college website

GPA admission requirements vary from school to school

Weighted and unweighted GPAs will be reported on CCSD transcript; for applications, use overall weighted GPA

Class rank is not included on transcripts or reported on Secondary Reports

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

Reach Schools

Apply to 1 or 2

“Reach schools” are those where senior’s academic credentials fall below the school’s range for the freshman class.

Match Schools

Apply to 2 or 3

“Match schools” are schools where student’s academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school’s range for the freshman class.

Likely Schools

Apply to at least 2 or 3

“Likely schools” are schools where students will almost definitely get into because academic credentials are much better than the typical range for college’s freshman class.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Size and diversity
of student body

Location

Academic
programs

Campus life —
athletics, activities,
housing

Graduation and
retention rates

Internships, study
abroad, research
opportunities, job
placement

Financial aid and
scholarship
opportunities

COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS

Fall break - great time to tour college campuses

Sign up for the college mailing list – open email and read it

Colleges may use email to track demonstrated interest

- Your student should email/speak with admission counselor
- Ask about financial aid/speak with financial aid officer
- Inquire if your student can sit in on a class of interest
- Talk to students and faculty
- Seniors get 2 excused college campus visits (must turn in an official letter from college to the attendance office)

Most colleges host on-campus tours/offer virtual tours

CCSD College Fair at Walton on Monday, September 14th

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS

Over 130 college admissions counselors come to Walton each year to share information about academic and special programs, admission requirements, scholarships and financial aid, and campus life.

- College rep visits are open to **Walton junior and senior students only**
- All visits are listed in Schoolinks
- Students must register in Schoolinks at least 24 hours before the scheduled visit
- Students will print their Schoolinks confirmation email and show it to their teacher to receive permission to attend
- When attending college visits:
 - students should come prepared and ask thoughtful questions
 - they should be engaged and professional
 - this is your student's opportunity to make a great first impression and demonstrate your interest in the college or university!

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Above all, think about where your child will be the most happy and successful in their college life.





College Application Process

ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Regular Decision

- Deadline date established by the institution

Early Decision I & II : Binding

- Cannot apply **ED** to other colleges, can only apply regular decision.
- If accepted, must attend (BINDING)

Early Action: Non-Binding

- Can apply early to other colleges, can apply for regular decision

Single Choice Restricted Early Action: Non-Binding

- Cannot apply early to other colleges, can apply for regular decision

Rolling Admission

- Open admission, decisions are given throughout the year, not at a specific time

Priority Deadline

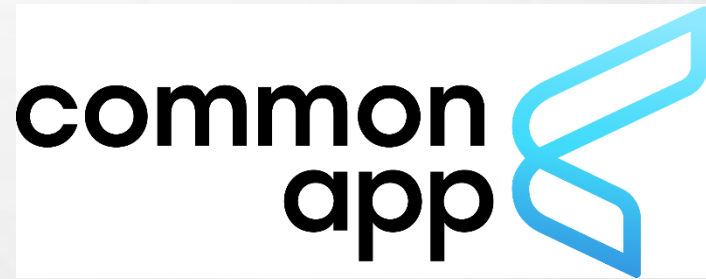
- Similar to rolling admissions, but priority is given to those applicants who meet the earlier priority deadline

APPLICATION TYPES: COMMON APP

- The Common App is a free admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 1,000 + member colleges and universities.
 - Each college charges its own application processing fee.

Students must

1. Create a Common App account
2. Add colleges to Common App First
3. Then student matches their Common App account to their SchoolLinks account.



In CA, students may monitor submissions of their documents and check when the college has downloaded them.

APPLICATION TYPES: COLLEGE'S OWN APPLICATION/DIRECT TO INSTITUTION

Some colleges offer a school-specific application available through their undergraduate admissions website.

Applications outside of the Common App must be manually added by students to their College Application Manager in SchoolLinks.

SAT & ACT

- A college's **standardized testing policy** will be clearly explained on its website
- Dates and registration for upcoming **SAT** and **ACT** dates
- SAT/ACT scores
 - If a college requires an official SAT/ACT score, these scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies' websites.
 - **Click here** to send SAT scores
 - **Click here** to send ACT scores
 - Electronic sending of scores can take a few weeks, so plan accordingly
- Some colleges will allow students to self-report standardized test scores



TEST-OPTIONAL POLICIES

- For colleges that are **test-optional** for fall 2027 admission:
 - Students may submit test scores if they believe it will strengthen their application
 - Submitting test scores is not required for test-optional colleges
 - Colleges may place greater emphasis on other parts of the application (e.g., gpa, essays, activities)
 - Always check each college's website in the fall for updated test-optional policies and admission criteria

UPCOMING TEST DATES 2026-2027



- August 22*
- September 12
- October 3
- November 7*
- December 7
- March 6*
- May 1
- June 5



- September 19*
- October 17*
- December 12
- February 27*
- April 10
- June 12
- July 10

*** Offered at Walton**

- Test dates subject to change/cancellation
- Check college website for test deadlines!

REQUESTING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS: 2 STEP PROCESS

Students must complete **both** of the following steps to request a transcript.

STEP 1

- Make sure every college you're applying to is listed in the **Colleges Application Manager (CAM)** in SchoolLinks.
 - **Applying through Common App:** Your colleges will automatically appear in CAM after you [link](#) your Common App account with SchoolLinks.
 - **Applying directly to a college (not using Common App):** You must manually add each college to CAM before requesting your transcript. [Click here](#) for directions.

STEP 2

- Go to the Records Room (in the Counseling Office) to do the following:
 - Sign your transcript card.
 - Pay \$2.00 per transcript.
 - Payment must be made by cash or check only (no credit cards or MyPaymentsPlus).
 - Exact change is preferred if paying with cash.

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT AND SENIOR STATUS CHECK

- On Friday, 8/14, senior status checks were mailed home to families
- All seniors will receive a copy of their unofficial transcript via mail and in homeroom **the week of August 17, 2026**
- Take a picture of the unofficial transcript and put it in a safe place for family's records
- Many college applications require students to self-report their grades, so they will need a copy of unofficial transcript to do this
- Some colleges may require seniors to upload an unofficial copy of the transcript

NCAA & TRANSCRIPTS

- **Click here** to create an account on NCAA Eligibility Center
- Add NCAA on your transcript card and pay \$2 in the records room (like you would with other transcripts)
- Transcripts will be uploaded to the NCAA clearinghouse once students have completed these steps



TEACHER LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Check if a letter of recommendation is required. If the college does not accept one, **do not** send one! Only send what the college requests.
- Colleges recommend letters come from *11th or 12th* grade teachers in *academic subjects*.
 1. Students ask their teachers in person
 2. Teacher agrees, student completes the teacher recommendation form from Class of 2027 section on counseling website
 3. Student must request their teacher recommendations in their SchoolLinks account

All recommendation **requests** are due by **Tuesday, September 1st**

COUNSELOR SCHOOL REPORTS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Not all colleges require a counselor recommendation letter.**
- If required, **students will not request a separate counselor letter in SchoolLinks.**
- When your student orders their transcript, their counselor will process all required documents, including the School Report for Common App schools.
- A completed **Postsecondary Options Packet** is required before your counselor can write a recommendation.
- If your student has not submitted their packet, they must **email it to the counselor by September 1, 2026.**
- **English summer assignment:** The packet should have been submitted to their counselor for credit.



Walton Statistics

**ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS**

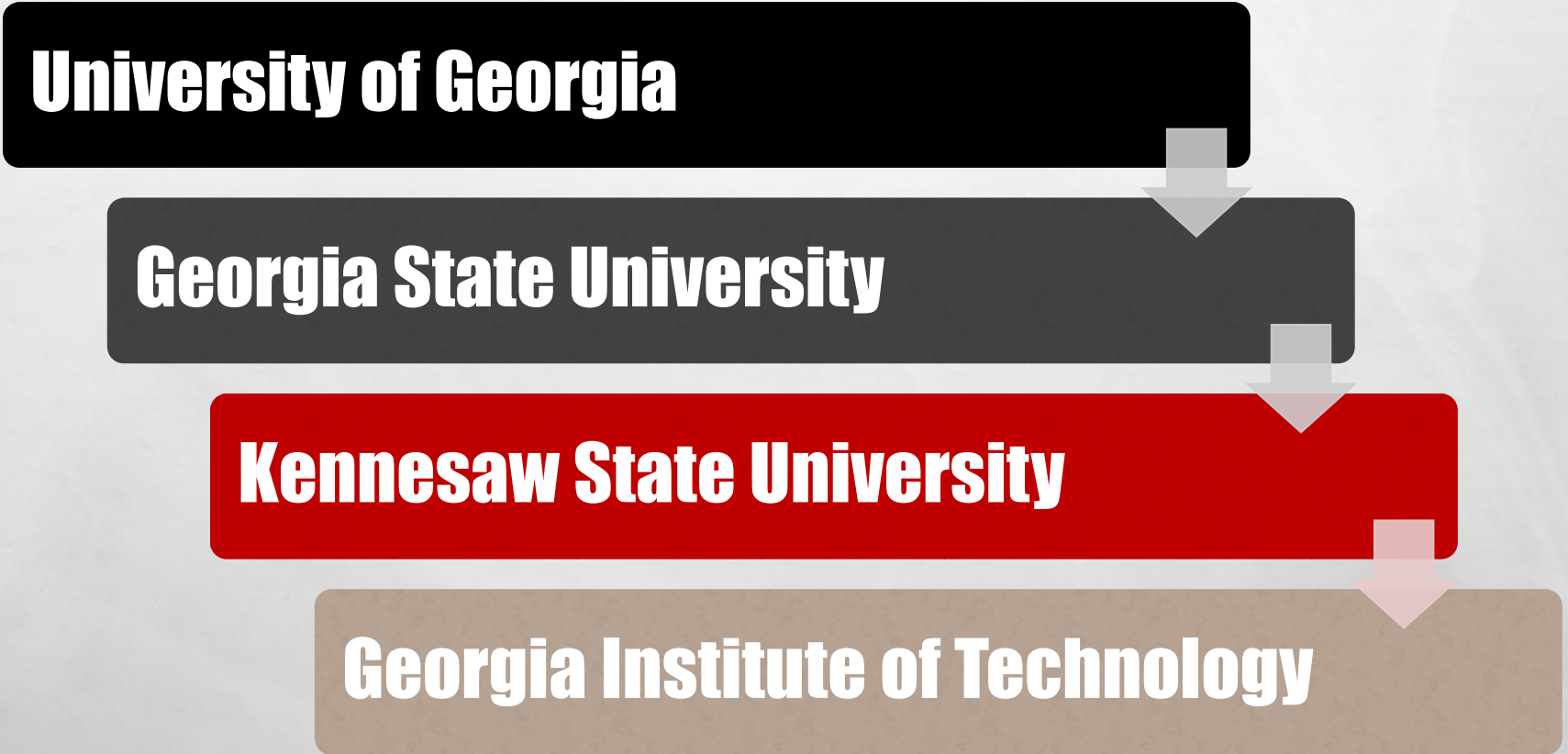
OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS

CLASS OF 2026

- Top Colleges Where WHS Class Of 2026 Matriculated:
 - Kennesaw State University
 - University Of Georgia
 - Georgia Institute Of Technology-main campus
 - Auburn University
 - Georgia State University
 - University Of North Georgia
 - The University Of Alabama
 - Georgia Southern University
 - Georgia College & State University
 - The University Of Tennessee-Knoxville
- 4 Year — 91%
- 2 Year — 5%
- Military/Gap/Work/
Not Reported — 4%

WALTON COLLEGE SPECIFIC STATISTICS

University of Georgia



Georgia State University

Kennesaw State University

Georgia Institute of Technology

UGA ADMISSIONS

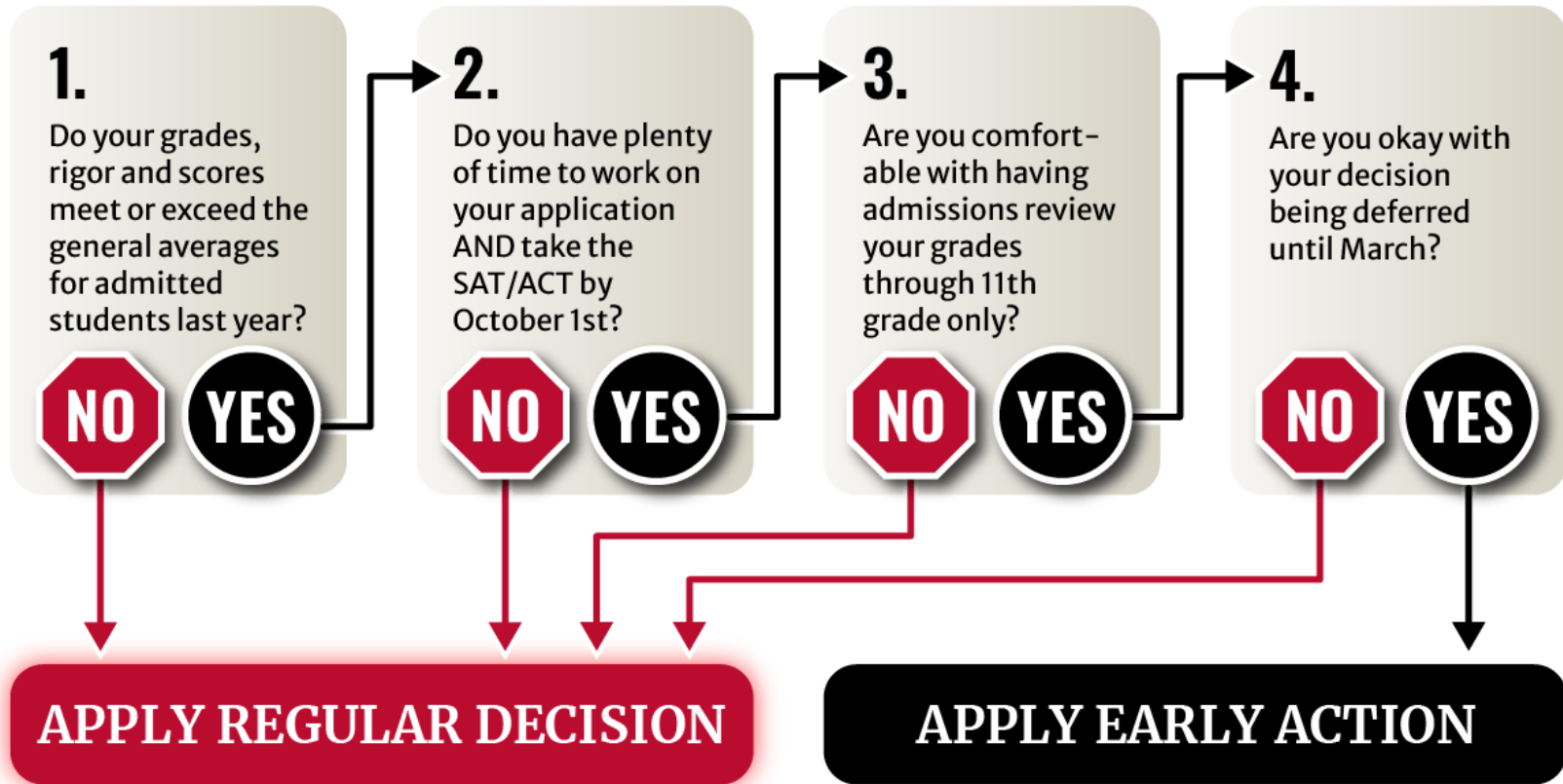
UGA admissions – what matters most

- **Grades are #1** – GPA recalculated on 4.0 scale from core academic courses (incl. AP Art & Music Theory); D/F grades are major concerns.
- **Rigor Counts** – take the most challenging courses available (AP/IB/Dual Enrollment); AP grades get +1 weight; no extra weight for honors but considered for rigor.
- **Testing** – SAT/ACT required; must be sent directly; UGA superscores both; no preference between tests; high scores help but don't replace GPA.
- **Recommendations (optional)** – best from teachers in rigorous courses who know student's academic strengths.
- **Bottom Line** – competitive applicants = strong GPA in rigorous curriculum + solid test scores.

<https://www.admissions.uga.edu/admissions/first-year/first-year-admission-criteria/>

UGA ADMISSIONS – EARLY ACTION VS. REGULAR DECISION

EARLY ACTION VS. REGULAR DECISION - WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?



2027 Freshman Admission Notes - UGA Admissions

UGA ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

CLASS OF
2030

FINAL DECISION ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

51,600+

Applicants

15,400+

Admits



8.3%

Increase in Total
Applicants Compared
to Previous Year



156
Georgia
Counties



2,800+
Total
High Schools



50
States
+ D.C.

TOP 5 INTENDED MAJORS OF ADMITS

1

BS Biology

2

BBA Finance

3

BSME Mechanical
Engineering

4

BS Psychology

5

Undecided Business



13,900+
Jobs Held



39,000+
Leadership Roles



26,100
Volunteer
Experiences



600+
Attend a High
School With a
Bulldog Mascot



14,300+
Athletic Teams



12,200+
Creative Arts

93%

Of Admits' Core
Grades Were A's

ACADEMIC MIDDLE 50%

4.13 - 4.40 31-34 1360-1500
Core GPA ACT SAT

UGA ADMISSIONS

Walton Class Of 2026 Stats

- Applied: 324 Students
- Admitted: 149
- Enrolled: 69



Note: We will send UGA transcripts through GAFutures this year in addition to common app.

GEORGIA STATE ADMISSIONS

Admission to Georgia State University from high school is based on four key factors:

- SAT/ACT composite score
- High school grade point average (GPA)
- First-year index (FI) AND number of high school core courses completed
- The first-year index (FI) is based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and high school GPA in college prep courses only.
- Students can use the [Panther Predictor](#) on the Georgia State website to help you determine the probability of first-year admission in advance of applying.



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GEORGIA STATE-ATLANTA CAMPUS

- HIGH SCHOOL GPA (FOR REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM ONLY): **2.75 MINIMUM**
- SAT MINIMUM SCORES:
 - EVIDENCE-BASED READING & WRITING: **480**
 - MATH: **440**
- ACT MINIMUM SCORES:
 - ENGLISH OR READING: **17**
 - MATH: **17**
- Freshman Index (fi) minimum: **2500**

Your test scores are combined with your required high school curriculum GPA to calculate a **Freshman Index (fi)** — a formula used by the University System of Georgia (USG) to help determine admission eligibility. We recommend reviewing our detailed admissions requirements if you want to estimate your score.



KSU ADMISSIONS (NEW FALL 2027)

Fall 2027 Freshman Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA for Admission: **3.0** recalculated based on the 17 units of the Required High School Curriculum
- SAT: 500 Reading and Writing | 490 Math
- ACT: 18 English or Reading | 18 Math
- CLT: 39 Verbal | 16 Math
- Note: Higher admissions requirements exist for the Architecture program and certain scholarship opportunities.

Important Dates

- 2027 Applications Open on Common App: August 1, 2026
- Fall 2027 Priority Application Deadline: November 2, 2026
- Fall 2027 Regular Application Deadline: July 1, 2027



GEORGIA TECH ADMISSIONS FACTORS

Holistic application review:

- Application review process
- Academic preparation
- Standardized tests
- Contribution to community
- Personal essays
- Recommendations
- Major selection
- Interview for International Applicants



Excellent information on the [Georgia Tech website](#) about each of these categories

GEORGIA TECH ADMISSIONS



2026 FIRST-YEAR ADMITTED PROFILE

ADMISSION.GATECH.EDU

A record number of nearly 68,000 students applied to join the 2026 first-year class at Georgia Tech. The class goal for this year is **4,100** students who will enroll in the Summer and Fall terms.

67,985

Total Applications

8,715

Total Admits

28% Georgia Admit Rate

9% Non-Georgia Admit Rate

Admitted Students Come From:



136

Georgia Counties



50

States
plus DC and Puerto Rico



97

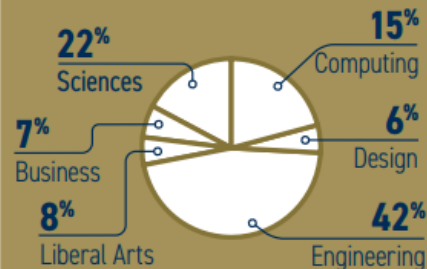
Nations



3,038

High Schools

Intended Areas of Study



GEORGIA TECH ADMISSIONS



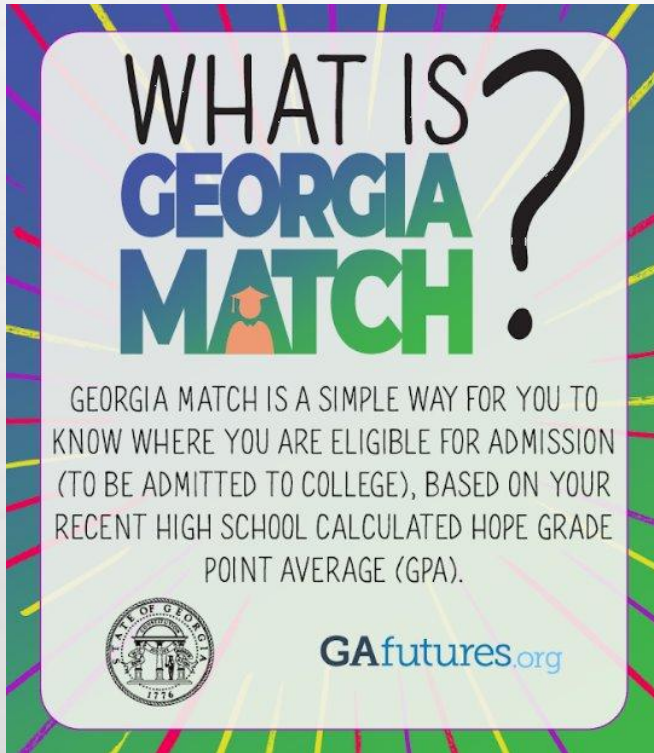
Walton Class of 2026 stats

- Applied: 228
- Admitted: 53
- Enrolled: 35

WHS accepted student average from Summer 2020-Fall 2025

- SAT: 1524
- ACT: 34
- GPA: A Average
- First-Second Year Average Retention Rate: 98%
- Most Popular Majors: Biology, Business Administration, Computer Science, and Industrial Engineering

GEORGIA MATCH



- Georgia Match is a simple way for you to know where you are eligible for admission, based on your high school calculated hope GPA through 11th grade.
- Georgia Match works with public and private accredited high schools in Georgia.
- To view your Georgia match colleges, visit your gafutures student dashboard at [GAFUTURES.ORG](https://gafutures.org) | [GEORGIA STUDENT FINANCE COMMISSION](https://gafutures.org)



Financial Aid and Scholarships

ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS

FINANCIAL AID

- Financial aid helps students pay for college
- Types of financial aid:
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
 - Student loans
 - Work-study
- Scholarships and grants DO NOT have to be repaid
- Student loans MUST be repaid (the amount borrowed + interest)

FAFSA

- Free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)
- Submitted annually by college students to determine eligibility for student financial aid
- Includes sections to be completed by the student and parent/guardian
- FAFSA will be fully available on October 1, 2026
- [Click here](#) for the FAFSA website
- Look for the “net price calculator” on the college website to determine the estimated family contribution (EFC) -- the estimated amount you will have to pay to attend that institution

CSS PROFILE

- Many private colleges require the **CSS Profile** in addition to the FAFSA
- Used by many early action/early decision institutions
- CSS profile is available **October 1, 2026**
 - \$25 original application fee/one college
 - \$16 for additional college/program
 - Students eligible for SAT fee waiver may receive a CSS fee waiver
- **Click here** for a comprehensive list of schools

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Types of scholarships:
 - **Merit-based** – awards for grades, test scores, leadership, or achievements
 - **Need-based** – based on financial need
 - **Athletic** – for students who play sports
 - **Talent-based** – for skills in music, art, theater, or dance
 - **Career/major-specific** – for specific fields (e.g., nursing, education)
 - **Local** – offered by community groups or businesses
 - **College** – given directly by colleges
 - **Private** – funded by companies or organizations
- Where to find college scholarships:
 - [SchoolLinks](#)
 - [Walton scholarship page](#)
 - [Walton scholarship list](#) – frequently updated by CCSD & Walton
 - [GaFutures](#)
 - College/university financial aid office websites
 - Online search engines (e.g., [FASTWEB](#))

HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

- **HOPE Scholarship**

- 3.0 GPA for core academic courses (English, math, science, social studies, and world language)
- 4 HOPE rigor courses

- **Zell Miller Scholarship**

- 3.7 GPA for core academic courses
- 1200 on SAT (1 sitting) or 25 on ACT (1 sitting)
- 4 HOPE rigor courses



- **Remember for both HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships**

- HOPE GPA is calculated by the GSFC and found on the [GAfutures website](#)
- HOPE GPA is not listed on Walton transcript
- [Click here](#) for the HOPE rigor course list
- [Click here](#) to learn more about the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship

We must have your student's **Social Security Number** on file to submit academic records for HOPE eligibility!

FINAL STEPS AND MAKING A DECISION

Try to visit colleges where your child has been accepted before they choose to attend.

Compare financial aid packages.

Send deposit and apply for housing.

Get ready for graduation!

Have student request final transcript before Graduation and complete Senior Survey

Congratulations, your student is off to college!

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

- [Click here](#) for detailed information about Walton's volunteer service recognition program.
 - 180 hours of approved volunteer service.
 - Hours must be tracked using Mobileserve and submitted in the school year in which they were performed by **April 15, 2027**.
 - If your student's hours have been verified (blue envelope) but not approved (blue checkmark), then their account is not connected to Walton. Email rebecca.England@cobbk12.org with questions on how to connect.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CCSD COLLEGE FAIR**
 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6:00 PM AT WALTON
 - [CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER
- **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT**
 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 6:30 PM IN THE WALTON THEATER
 - Presented by the Georgia Student Finance Commission
- **ASVAB**
 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 DURING WEB IN LAB 203
 - [CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for coming!

We hope your student has a wonderful senior year!