



# South Dakota College Application Week

## Parent Checklist: April

If your student hasn't heard from colleges already, this is the month when many acceptance letters are sent out. Very exciting! In addition, colleges also send out financial aid award letters that will give the amount of federal, state, and institutional money available to your student.

**Review the financial aid award letters very carefully and ask for help if you have any questions.**

We are so proud of all of our seniors who are making plans for after they graduate – we celebrate all of their accomplishments!

- Look for decision letters from colleges.
  - Celebrate acceptances with your student, and be supportive if she/he is put on the waitlist or denied.
- Compare financial aid award letters from colleges.
  - Colleges send financial aid award letters soon after sending acceptance letters. Review these carefully with your student and make sure he/she understands how loans, grants, and scholarships work. Compare the cost of attendance and how much aid is given at each school. Do not be afraid to ask for help if you have questions about the award letters.
- Sign up for and attend preview days on campuses.
  - Many colleges have days or weekends specifically for admitted students – your student can take advantage of these to help decide between colleges or get to know one better. Some colleges might offer sessions specifically for parents as well.
- Decide where to attend college in the fall.
  - Help your student think through the process and consider all of the factors in choosing a college like distance from home, cost, academics, and more. Be supportive in his/her final decision and celebrate! In addition, many colleges require a confirmation and initial deposit by May 1.

**This month's conversation starter:** "Which things are most important to consider in making a decision about which college you'll attend?"