

# National College Decision Day

May 1 is known as National College Decision Day, due to that fact that the majority of U.S. colleges and universities have set this day as the deadline for students to notify them of their decision to attend.

## What is College Decision Day?

This day, May 1, serves as a chance for your school and community to celebrate the success of your school's senior class. Hosting a College Decision Day event is an excellent way to wrap up and celebrate students' acceptance letters from College Application Campaign, but all schools are encouraged to participate in this day. The day was launched by the National College Advising Corps (NCAC) who hosts events around the country during the end of April through May with the assistance of partners and Advising Corps advisers.

## How does our school participate in College Decision Day?

Each school can find their own way to celebrate their senior's success! This is your chance to recognize seniors for all their hard work and their next step, whether it be college, vocational school or the military. Some small ways to create an air of excitement regarding college acceptance includes:

- Use daily announcements to share where students will be attending college.
- Create a bulletin board where students can add pins or their name to where they will be attending college.
- Have your school newspaper do a spread showing where seniors are going next year. Have students share favorite high school memories, activities and teachers.
- Have faculty dress up in alma mater shirts and have seniors sport gear of their future schools.
- Have a college trivia question at the beginning of each day leading up to your event or during the month of May. Give out a small prize or special privilege to the first student to get it right.



Further college excitement by hosting a school-wide event! Reach out to local colleges and universities, GEAR UP Iowa, public figures and education advocates to volunteer and supply giveaways. Check out these event examples:

### Assembly

Have your principal, mayor or a local college president read off the names of all the schools and branches of military that students have chosen. Have students stand up when their school or military branch is read. Applaud students on their success.

Give a short speech honoring seniors on their college acceptance and the great things they will do with the future. Encourage those who still haven't decided to still explore their postsecondary options.

Invite graduates of your school who are currently in college or graduated from college to come back and answer seniors' questions and give college success tips.

Give seniors a small token or college survival kit. Include an inspirational quote or message with each one.

### Picnic/Cookout

Feature free food and ask college representatives for T-shirts or other gear to give away to students. Have staff and local college representatives available to answer student questions regarding orientation, dorm life and all the next steps.

Invite parents to attend as well to get their college questions answered and thank them for supporting their students' postsecondary plans.

Allow younger students to attend to begin cultivating an interest in postsecondary education early.

Keep the atmosphere fun and casual with a DJ and outdoor activities.

Give seniors essential college supplies, such as pens, notebooks, plastic dish ware, etc. Raffle off one big item, such as a microwave or mini fridge.

For additional information or support contact Iowa College Aid by calling 877-272-4456 or email [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov)

