



Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School
INTENTION TO APPLY EARLY
(Due September 13, 2019)

NAME _____

If you are considering early application programs, please be aware of the policy that **Early Decision programs are binding. By applying under such a plan, you make a commitment to enroll if offered admission by a college in December.** If you are deferred to the regular applicant pool, you are released from the agreement and are free to enroll at any college to which you are admitted.

While it appears that qualified applicants improve their chances of being admitted to college when they apply Early, there remain other issues that you should consider:

- Some colleges do not allow Early Decision students to defer their admission for a year. If you are planning to study in Israel, **you must ascertain the college's policy before you apply.**
- Students should apply when they can present their strongest credentials. Regular applicants have the benefit of three fall test dates to improve their SAT, ACT and SAT Subject Tests profiles; the results of first semester grades in the senior year; and additional senior year extracurricular accomplishment and leadership, which often strengthen a candidate's case significantly. Counselor advocacy with colleges continues through March; in addition to providing updates in academic performance in Ma'ayanot's most demanding courses, other information might focus on current status in senior projects, extracurricular accomplishment, and leadership. Early applicants must rely primarily on their record achieved through junior year.
- As a regular applicant, in most cases you will have more time to explore your options through continued visits and research. Successful early applicants may become aware of other attractive college options after having made an early commitment.
- Because of the anticipated volume of early applications this year, and the belief that some applicants will use early programs as a *strategy* rather than showing a genuine understanding of their suitability for the institution, more colleges will make terminal decisions (i.e., *deny* rather than *defer*) in their early pools. Because colleges seek candidates who have genuine commitments to their institution and not those who use early plans as a strategy, admissions offices closely scrutinize their applicants to determine not only who is qualified, but also who demonstrates an authentic sense of their personal "fit" with the institution.
- Any student who has no commitment to a particular college in mid-September but develops one by January may attach a letter avowing her intention to enroll and to decline other offers of admission. Many colleges appreciate the time needed to develop a genuine commitment and some, responding to this need, have added *Early Decision Round Two* plans, with deadlines often occurring in January.
- For students who seek financial aid, early commitment will foreclose the opportunity to compare competitive financial aid packages offered by other schools.

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Given your understanding of these implications of Early Decision, if you elect to apply under such a program, please complete the following information and rationale for your decision:

Name _____

College _____ Deadline _____

Other colleges visited:

Teachers whom you have asked to write recommendations:

Please explain the rationale for your decision to apply early to this school in particular. Please list two other colleges you have visited and what you liked about each. Why does this college emerge as the one to which you are choosing to apply ED?

College _____ College _____

In signing this form, both parent and student understand that, if accepted to the Early Decision school, the student will withdraw any applications to other colleges.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please return to College Guidance by September 13th.

- ✓ You must submit the rough draft of your entire Early Decision application, including all essays, no later than September 27th, for your college adviser to review.
- ✓ Please note that applicants for Early Decision *must* prepare applications to other colleges in addition.