



Section 5: Next Steps

Final Considerations

Tracking

As a reminder, it is important that all student information is captured once they have finished submitting their college applications.

- Students can enter their data directly into the web form with volunteer supervision (preferred) OR they can complete a paper tracker and a volunteer can enter the information into the web form.
- We use this information to track the number of students assisted and number of applications submitted, as well as provide identifying information to the NH Department of Education in determining college enrollment.
- The web form can be found on graniteedvance.org on the **ApplyNH** page.

When all students have completed their tracker, please alert Granite Edvance. We will run your school's report and let you know how many students completed college applications and the total amount submitted. Please share and celebrate these results with your school community!

Scholarship

All participating schools have access to a \$500 scholarship, funded by the NH DOE and Granite Edvance. These schools can decide which senior will receive the scholarship. Your recipient must participate in your school's event and submit at least one college application.

- You may want to place all the participants' names in a hat and draw a winner, or choose your winner directly based on your own criteria. How and when you announce the winner is at your discretion.
- Utilize the scholarship certificate (**Appendix 15**) to celebrate your winner.
- It is critical that your site team complete the **Scholarship Recipient Info Form** (**Appendix 21**) and sends it back to us so we may accurately process the funds transfer.
- The funds will be held by Granite Edvance until the student has selected their college or university in the spring. After that, **we will mail the scholarship check directly to the school the student will be attending.**

Data Verification

New Hampshire college admissions offices are encouraged to follow up with students that applied to their school during this initiative. Student names and high schools will be provided to each college so they may do so. If the colleges do reach out to these students, it is a great opportunity for them to connect with an admissions officer and have another point of contact in this process.

Event Evaluation

- After your **ApplyNH** event, your site team should meet to discuss the successes and challenges of the current year's initiative – feel free to use the topics from the site team section to guide the discussion. The debrief meeting should occur as close to the conclusion of your **ApplyNH** event as possible. By quickly assessing what worked and what areas need improvement, your site team can get a jump-start on planning for next year's program.
- During this meeting, you can also create an action plan to follow-up with participating students who need to complete their college application(s) or other forms and begin the financial aid application(s). Remember, Granite Edvance is here to help with all next steps, including the critical step of applying for financial aid!

Post-Event Activities: Keep the Momentum Going

It is important to ensure that students complete their college and other pathway applications by submitting other materials institutions may require, such as high school transcripts, college entrance exam scores, recommendation letters, and **applying for financial aid**. In addition, students should be encouraged to submit additional applications they may not have had time to complete during the event.

Financial Aid Night

While completing a college application is the first step on the road to college attendance, submitting financial aid information is just as important. In an effort to reach as many of your students and families as possible with this essential information, please schedule and promote Granite Edvance's Financial Aid Night for your school.

Promote FAFSA Completion

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a federal form that is required for almost all forms of financial aid, including institutional aid and many merit-based scholarships. Help students unlock all their financial aid options by promoting the FAFSA. Granite Edvance offers free assistance for families in completing the FAFSA. **Encourage students to file their FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov by booking an appointment at graniteedvance.org/help** and check out our website for the most up-to-date information!

Reviewing Financial Aid Offer Letters

Schedule and encourage students and families to attend our "Paying for College 101: Understanding Offer Letters and Financing Options" presentation in the spring. This presentation explains the types of financial aid received and how to compare offer letters from multiple colleges. We'll also review payment and financing options. **Students and families can receive individual guidance through our Reviewing Financial Aid Offer Letters appointment, available at graniteedvance.org/help.**

Decision Day

Congratulate Students on Choosing their Path

May 1st is National Decision Day! While it has previously been known as “College Decision Day,” by dropping the “college,” we are able to support students of all pathways and create a more inclusive environment. To celebrate, consider having students to list their name and their decision on a bulletin board or outside the counseling office. Set aside an area or virtual platform where students can post their information. Or host an event where seniors can walk across your stage holding a sign or wearing a t-shirt decorated with their college/career. You could even invite alumni or college reps to participate in the celebration -- trust us, they would love to! These options can help foster a future-oriented community and hopefully inspire younger students to consider college as an option for after high school.

Transition to College Services

Granite Edvance offers free services to assist rising college freshman with the transition from high school to college life. Utilizing expertise from our own team, representatives from New Hampshire’s colleges and universities, and current college students, this program supports students and their parents/guardians during this critical time. Find more information and resources checklist on our website.