



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION



Joseph Majka, J.D.
Superintendent

One Crest Way, Aberdeen, New Jersey 07747
(732) 705-4006 FAX: (732) 290-0751
www.marsd.org

Karen M. Jones Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

John Bombardier
Director of Instruction and Evaluation

Jessie Zitarosa
Director of Literacy and Humanities

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the school year begins, many high school students, parents, and working Americans are thinking about their next educational steps. With so many postsecondary options to consider, it's important that all prospective students have the information they need to make the best decision possible. These decisions—to pursue a higher education, with which type of degree, and at which institution—all have a lasting impact on our students and their futures.

The U.S. Department of Education recently released its first annual update of the redesigned **College Scorecard**—available at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> to ensure that students and families have the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and reliable information available on colleges, all in an easy-to-understand format. The site allows visitors to sort and filter their search results to easily compare schools and decide which college makes the most sense when considering the typical costs, average student loan amount, students' ability to repay their loans, and their future earnings.

We invite your participation to help ensure that the information on <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> gets into the hands of more students and families so they can make informed college choices.

Importance of the College Scorecard

- For students, higher education may be the single most important investment they can make in their futures to ensure they have the knowledge and skills needed to compete in an increasingly global marketplace. Experts say that by 2020, two-thirds of all jobs will require a postsecondary education; and college graduates are likely to earn a lot more and experience lower unemployment than those with only a high school diploma.
- This year, the U.S. Department of Education provided its first update of the redesigned College Scorecard, an interactive college search tool created with direct input from students, families, and their advisers.
- So far, 1.5 million users have visited the website to further explore their college options.
- The Scorecard provides the clearest, most accessible, and most reliable national data on college costs, graduation rates, typical debt levels, and post-college earnings. It is available to help students make informed choices about attending college.
- The College Scorecard is primarily designed for students and families, so the data are presented in an easy-to-understand graphical format.
- Students can also make specific searches based on what's most important to them. For example, students can use the College Scorecard to find men- or women-only institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, specific religious affiliations, schools that offer particular types of degrees and academic programs, and so much more.
- By making federal data on the performance of U.S. institutions widely available to the public, the U.S. Department of Education hopes that increased transparency will help support students as they pursue their academic and career goals through a college education and seek to find the institutions that will give them the best chances for success.