

Research Triangle High School

RTHS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday April 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM EDT

Location

<https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/93566460638>

Meeting ID: 935 6646 0638

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:30 PM
A. Record Attendance		Ailette Tobien	2 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Steven Hunter	2 m
Board Chair Steven Hunter will convene the meeting of the Board of Directors.			
II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes			5:34 PM
A. Board Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Ailette Tobien	2 m
The Board will review and approve the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.			
Approve minutes for RTHS Board of Directors Meeting on March 18, 2026			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
III. Public Comments			5:36 PM
A. Open to all community members (students, family members, faculty and staff, community members, and others)	FYI	Steven Hunter	5 m
<p><i>The RTHS Board of Directors welcomes and values input from members of the public during its meetings. In compliance with Open Meetings Law, the public is invited to attend all open meetings of the RTHS Board.</i></p> <p><i>To complete its planned agenda effectively and efficiently, the Board designates a specific time for public comment at each regular monthly meeting. Individuals seeking to address the board must:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Sign up at least two (2) hours before the start of the meeting by contacting the Board Chair in writing.</i> <i>2. Each written request to comment must include the speaker's name, their contact information, and the subject of the comment.</i> <i>3. Each speaker will have no more than three (3) minutes to address the Board.</i> <p><i>The following guidelines are observed during the public comment session:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Comments must be directed to the Board of Directors.</i> <i>2. Profanity and personal attacks are not permitted.</i> <i>3. Board members do not engage in dialogue or respond to speakers.</i> <i>4. Per state law, any discussion of personnel matters or attorney-client privileged issues must occur in a closed session.</i> <p><i>Thank you for your cooperation and your continued commitment to RTHS.</i></p>			
IV. Chief School Officer Report			5:41 PM
A. Executive Overview	Discuss	Akiba Griffin	10 m
<p>RTHS Chief School Officer (CSO) Akiba Griffin will share information about key school events and activities.</p>			
V. Finance Committee Report			5:51 PM

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. RTHS Monthly Financials and Other Business	Discuss	Carolyn Coia	10 m
Committee Chair Carolyn Coia and Chief Operations Officer (COO) Alex Drake will present the following items for the Board's review and approval:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Update / Budget • Vote 			
B. Executive Session	Vote	Carolyn Coia	10 m
The Board of Directors will be in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.			
VI. Governance Committee Report			6:11 PM
A. Governance Committee Business	Discuss	Elizabeth Cunningham	10 m
Committee Chair Elizabeth Cunningham will share the following items:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Evaluation Survey: April-June • 2026–2027 Policies and Handbooks: May-June • Board members and Board Leadership: Communications with current board members • Board Member Recruitment: Interest forms received 			
VII. Academic Excellence Committee Report			6:21 PM
A. Academic Excellence Business	Discuss	Jeni Corn	15 m
Committee Chair Jeni Corn and CSO Griffin will present the following items for Board review:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Engagement Team: Update • Data Review / Presentation: Post Secondary Readiness • NC TWC Update 			
VIII. Development Committee Report			6:36 PM

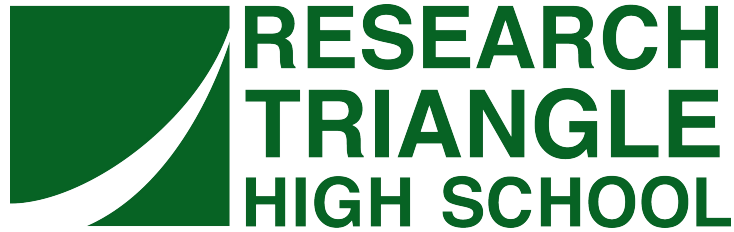
	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Development Committee Business Committee Chair Dina Requena and CSO Griffin will give an update:	Discuss	Dina Requena	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 			
IX. Other Business Matters			6:46 PM
A. As needed	Discuss	Steven Hunter	10 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming/ongoing activities <p>Next Board Meeting: May 20, 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Items for Discussion? 			
X. Closing Items			6:56 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Ailette Tobien	1 m

Coversheet

Board Meeting Minutes

Section: II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes
Item: A. Board Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for RTHS Board of Directors Meeting on March 18, 2026

DRAFT



Research Triangle High School

Minutes

RTHS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

Research Triangle High School
3106 East NC Highway 54
Durham, North Carolina 27709

or

<https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/93566460638>

Meeting ID: 935 6646 0638

Directors Present

A. Tobien (remote), C. Coia (remote), D. Requena (remote), E. Cunningham (remote), J. Berla (remote), J. Corn (remote), S. Hunter (remote)

Directors Absent

A. Saviello, M. Dwomoh, P. Thermitus, S. Khaliq

Guests Present

A. Drake (remote), A. Griffin (remote), D. Thompson (remote), Laura Chapman (remote), Shweta Kautia (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Hunter called a meeting of the board of directors of Research Triangle High School to order on Wednesday Mar 18, 2026 at 5:33 PM.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A. February Board of Directors meeting

C. Coia made a motion to approve the minutes from RTHS Board of Directors Meeting on 02-18-26.

J. Corn seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Dwomoh	Absent
S. Hunter	Aye
A. Saviello	Absent
P. Thermitus	Absent
A. Tobien	Aye
D. Requena	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
C. Coia	Aye
S. Khaliq	Absent
E. Cunningham	Aye
J. Berla	Aye

III. Public Comments

A. Open to all community members (students, family members, faculty and staff, community members, and others)

None.

S. Hunter thanked the public comments received regarding Robotics club. Currently, the first priority is to get through the competition season prior to any changes.

IV. Chief School Officer Report

A. Executive Overview

A. Griffin presented an executive overview details on the slides:

- monthly school activities
- 2 students received prestigious scholarship

- SET _ school engagement team updates

V. Finance Committee Report

A. RTHS Monthly Financials and Other Business

C. Coia and A. Drake presented financial report, details attached to agenda:

- next board meeting 1/2 hr earlier for finance information
- debt to service ratio = 1.64 at above required
- surplus allocation proposals details on the slide
- budget planning for 2026-27
- bond funds moved to money market at 3.5% interest
 - currently makes a few dollars a month
 - CDs are not an option for the bond funds

S. Hunter made a motion to approve moving bond funds to a money market account.

J. Berla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Corn	Aye
S. Hunter	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
A. Saviello	Absent
P. Thermitus	Absent
C. Coia	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
D. Requena	Aye
S. Khaliq	Absent

A. Tobien made a motion to approve unallocated fund proposals as detailed below.

J. Corn seconded the motion.

- Total \$110,340
- Facility enhancements:
 - storage sheds
 - improved school zone with LED flashing signage
- Support Staff and Students:
 - faculty device
 - laptop checkout stations
 - event hosting infrastructure

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Hunter	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye
A. Saviello	Absent
E. Cunningham	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
C. Coia	Aye
D. Requena	Aye
S. Khaliq	Absent
P. Thermitus	Absent
J. Berla	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent

VI. Governance Committee Report

A. Governance Committee Business

None

VII. Academic Excellence Committee Report

A. Academic Excellence Business

J. Corn and A. Griffin presented academic excellence update and details on the slides to the agenda:

- Data Set: graduation progress and credit accrual
 - readiness across grades at RTHS

VIII. Development Committee

A. Development Update

None

IX. Other Business Matters

A. As needed

Expansion vs updating current location:

- school report shared with some Board members
- **Action _ A. Griffin:** to send to all board members
- **Action _ All Board Members:** to initial feedback from board members to be sent via email to A.Griffin and cc S.Hunter
- Separate focus meeting to discuss

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

A. Tobien made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

J. Berla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Tobien

Coversheet

Executive Overview

Section: IV. Chief School Officer Report
Item: A. Executive Overview
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: CSO Highlights 4.15.26.pptx.pdf

CSO Report- April 15, 2026



CSO Highlights

- Accepted Families Day/Registration Assistance
- Students vs Staff Basketball
- National Assistant Principals Week
- Robotics: States Competition
- College Application Kickoff

Upcoming Events

- RTHS Prom
- Percy Jackson Musical



School Engagement Team Update

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Update on Annual Goals

Domain 1: Turnaround Leadership:

1. **Annual learning goals:** Set annual learning goals utilizing student learning data and communicate the urgency of improvement.
2. **School Culture:** Cultivate a supportive school culture addressing physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health for all personnel.
 - ★ Launch initiatives to support staff well-being.

Domain 3: Instructional Transformation:

1. **Progress Monitoring:** Use student data to identify instructional needs, implement a tiered system of support, and monitor progress through reliable, system-wide screenings.

- Preparation for '26-'27 School Year



Development- April 10th 2026



Development Meeting Notes

- **Fundraising Campaign raised \$27k**
- **Discussed starting a campaign earlier and have it ongoing**
- **We will work on defining the messaging of '26-'27 campaign**
- **Upcoming social media blast to highlight where funds raised were distributed**



Coversheet

RTHS Monthly Financials and Other Business

Section: V. Finance Committee Report
Item: A. RTHS Monthly Financials and Other Business
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: Finance Update - 4_15_26 Brief.pdf

RESEARCH TRIANGLE RAPTORS

FINANCE UPDATE APRIL 15, 2026

BUDGET UPDATE

- **As of 3/31/26:**

Projected surplus: \$335,945

DSCR: 1.64

- Funding ADM: **572** (2024-25 ADM)
- ADM for current year: **571**

- **Current Vacancies:**

- Physics
- Support position
 - 0.2 FTE; frozen

- **Committee Business:**

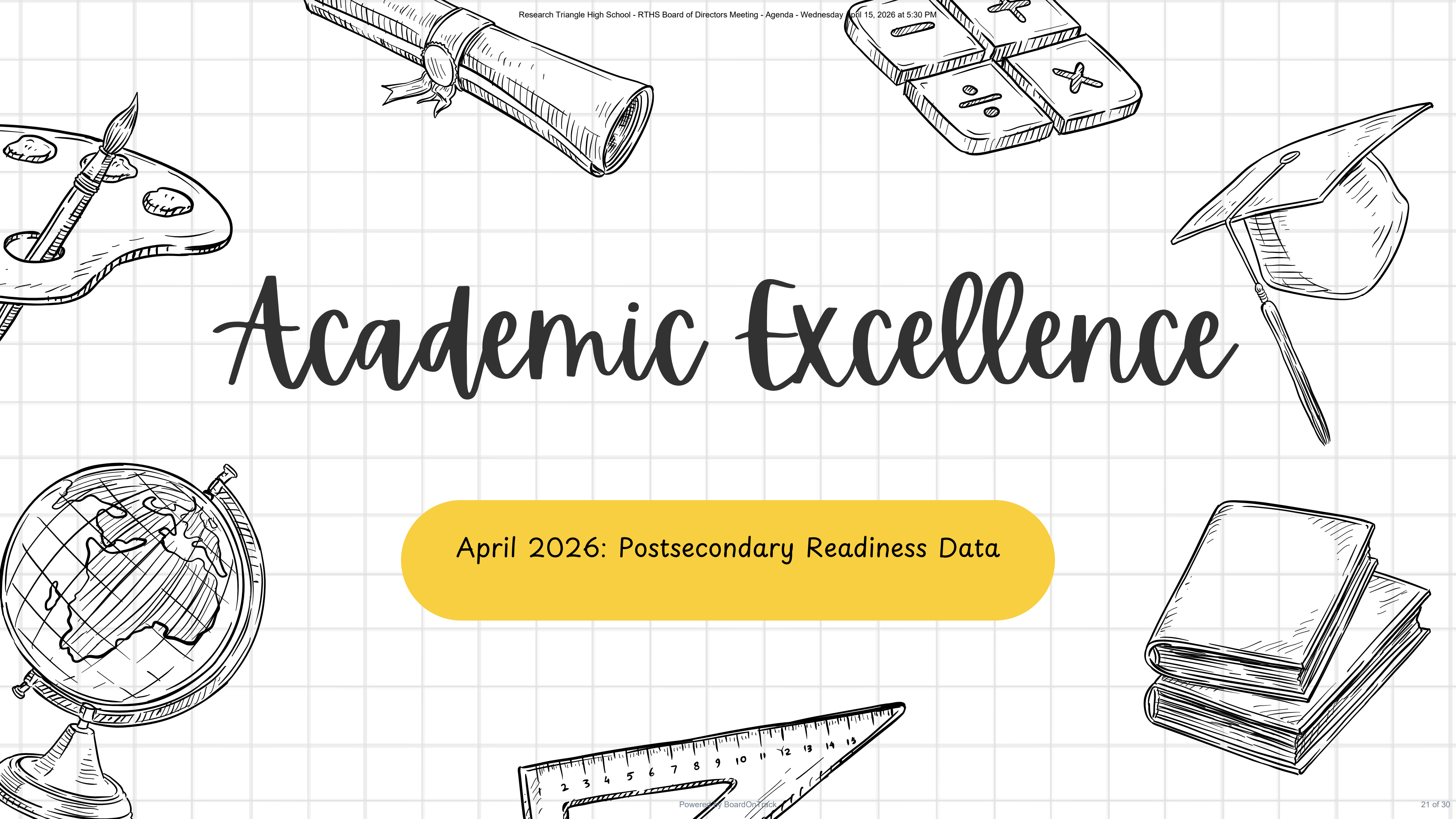
- Update on spending approved in March
- Audit proposals - selection and approval
- FY27 budget draft
 - Updates
 - Proposal to approve
- Staff bonus proposal
- Personnel contracts for approval



Coversheet

Academic Excellence Business

Section: VII. Academic Excellence Committee Report
Item: A. Academic Excellence Business
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: Academic Excellence-April 2026.pdf



Academic Excellence

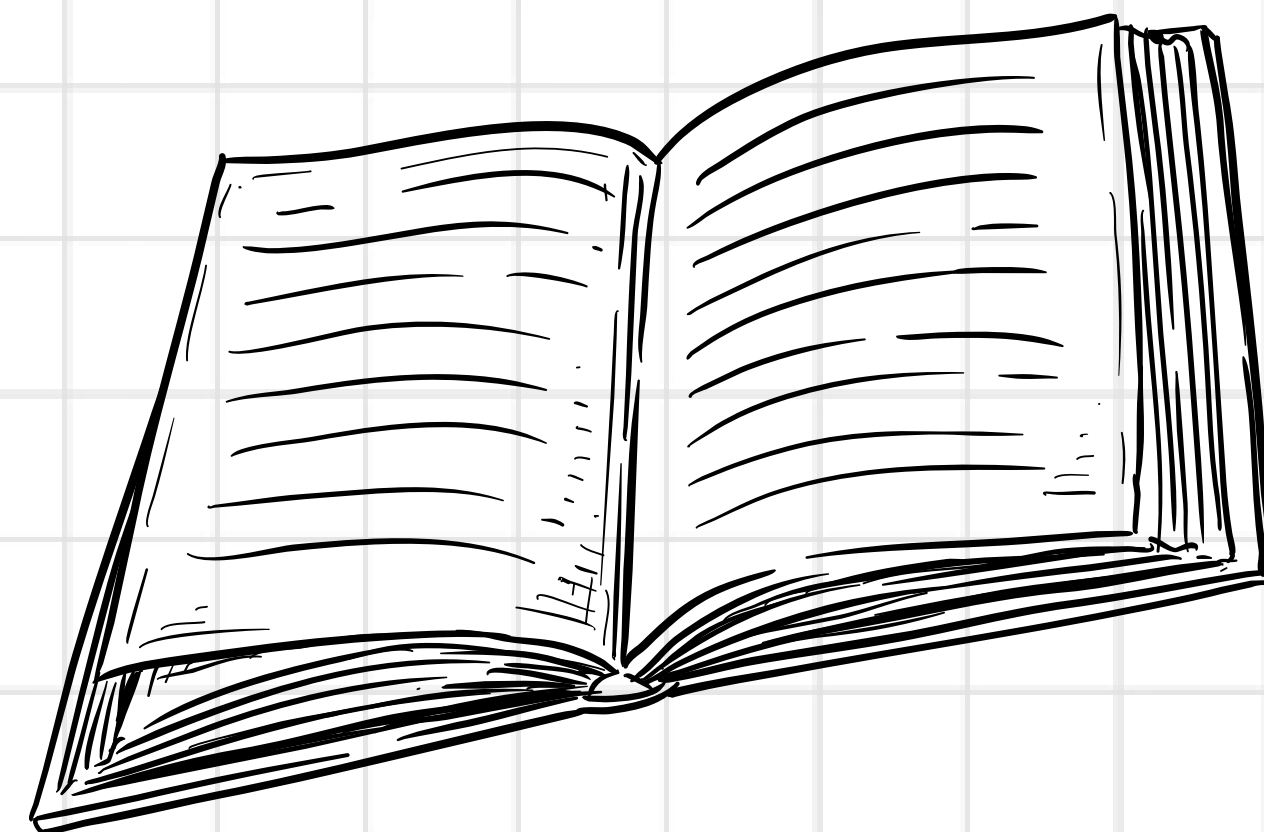
April 2026: Postsecondary Readiness Data



Guiding Question:

How well are students prepared for life after graduation?

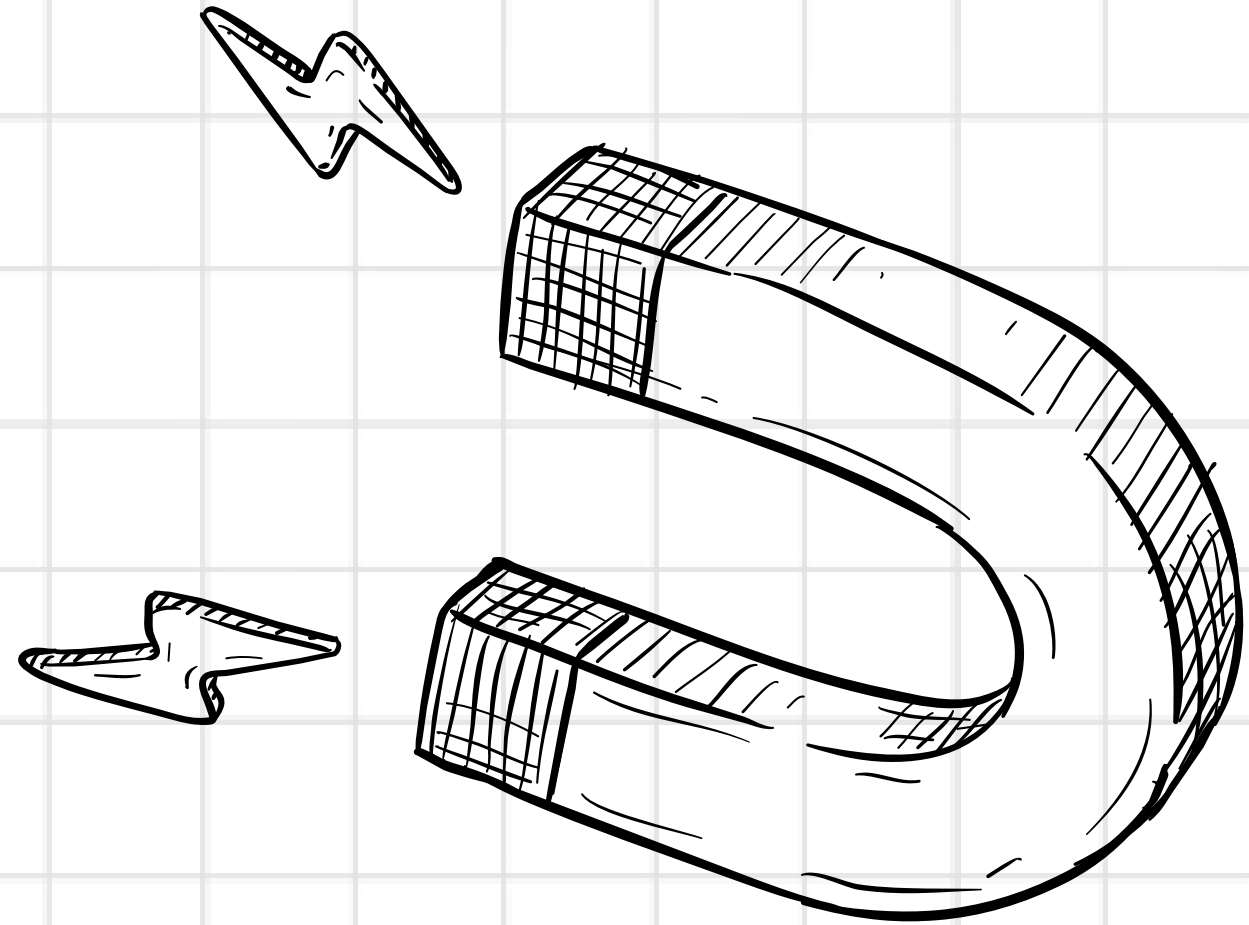
Data and Resources used



We examined college enrollment data, SAT/ACT data, other plans after H.S.



College and Career Center



Students begin meeting with our Director of College and Career as early as their freshman year to begin mapping out their HS experience, as well as discussing potential plans for life after graduation.

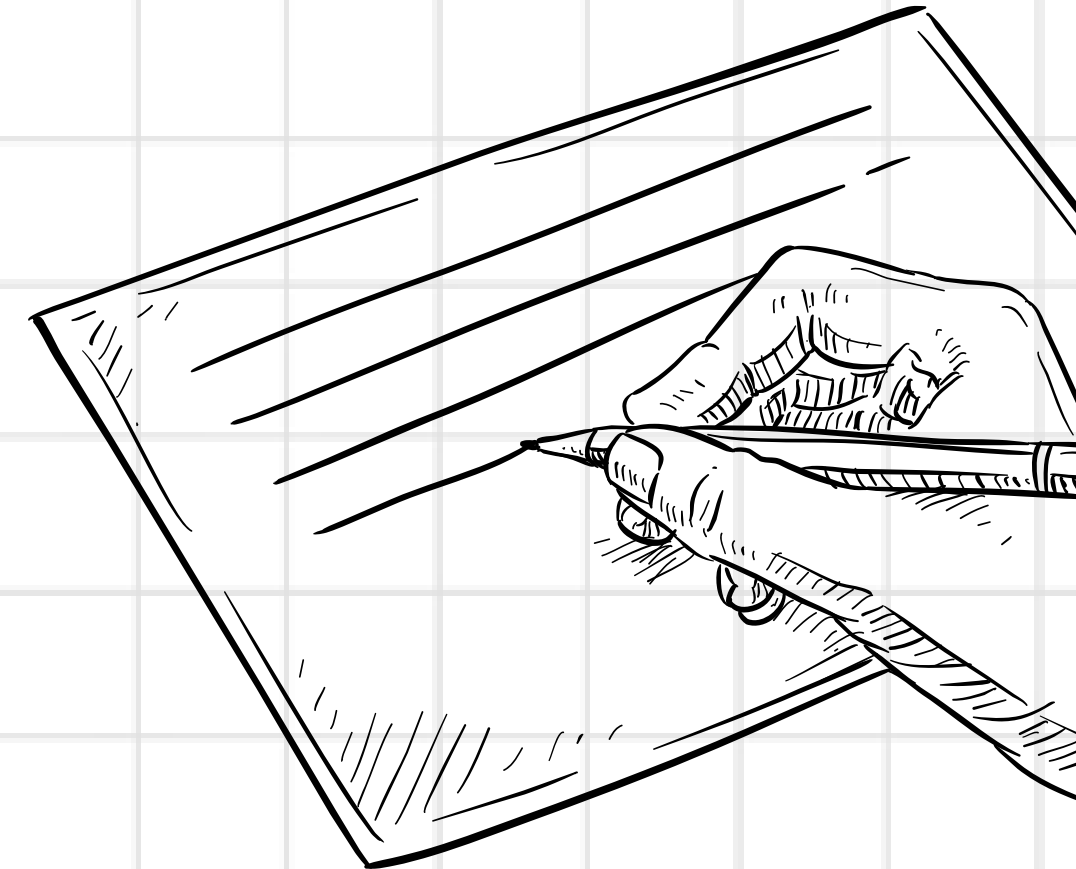
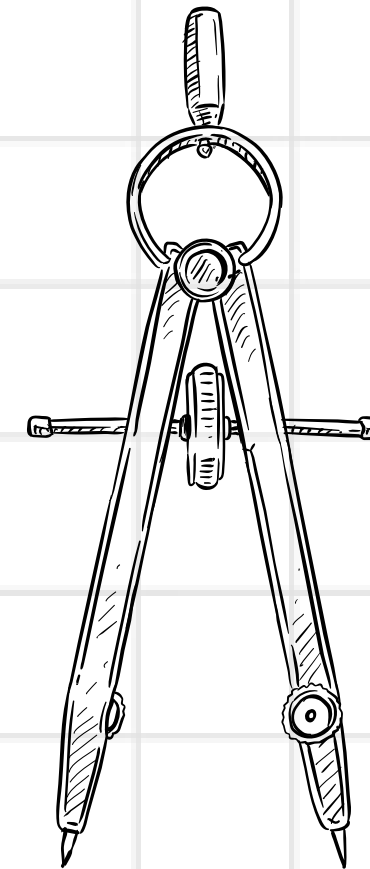
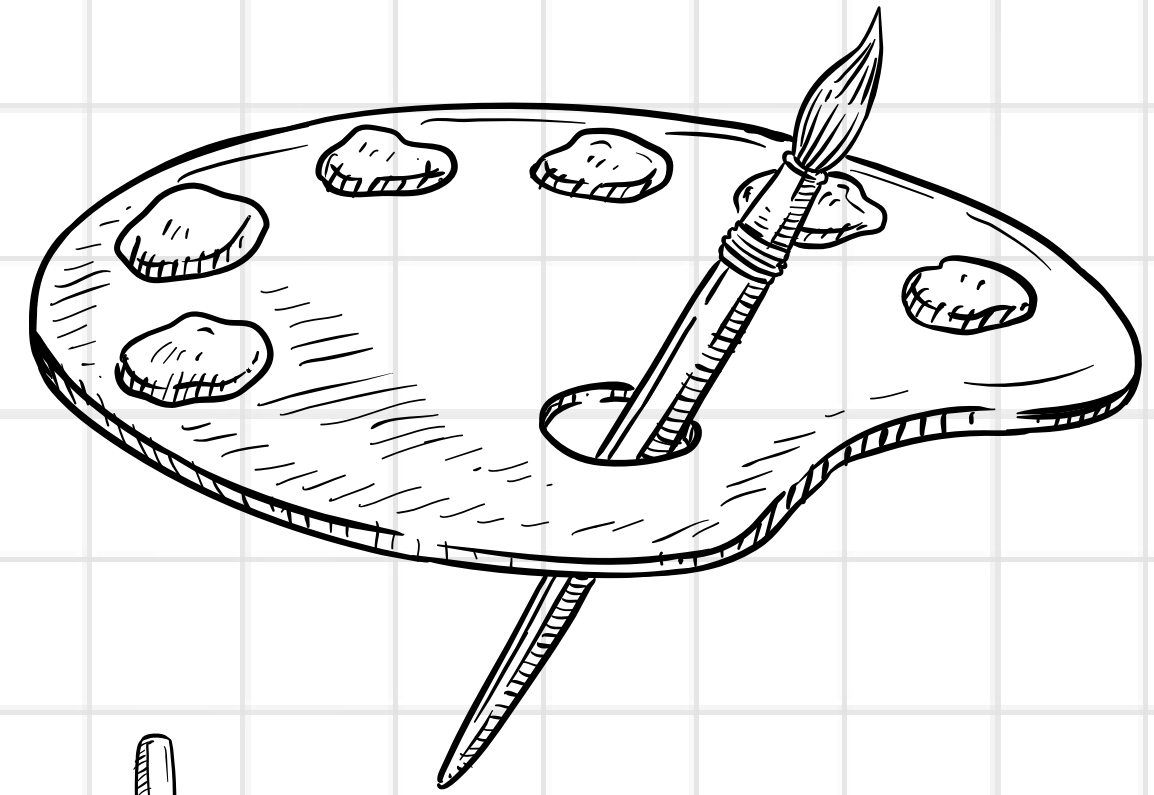


RTHS Historical Data for College Readiness

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Enrollment in 4 year college: 77%	Enrollment in 4 year college: 80%	Enrollment in 4 year college: 72%
Enrollment in 2 year college: 18%	Enrollment in 2 year college: 17%	Enrollment in 2 year college: 25%
Other plans including work, military, travel: 5%	Other plans including work, military, travel: 3%	Other plans including work, military, travel: 3%
Average SAT:1287 Average ACT: 25	Average SAT:1255 Average ACT: 24	Average SAT:1240 Average ACT: 24

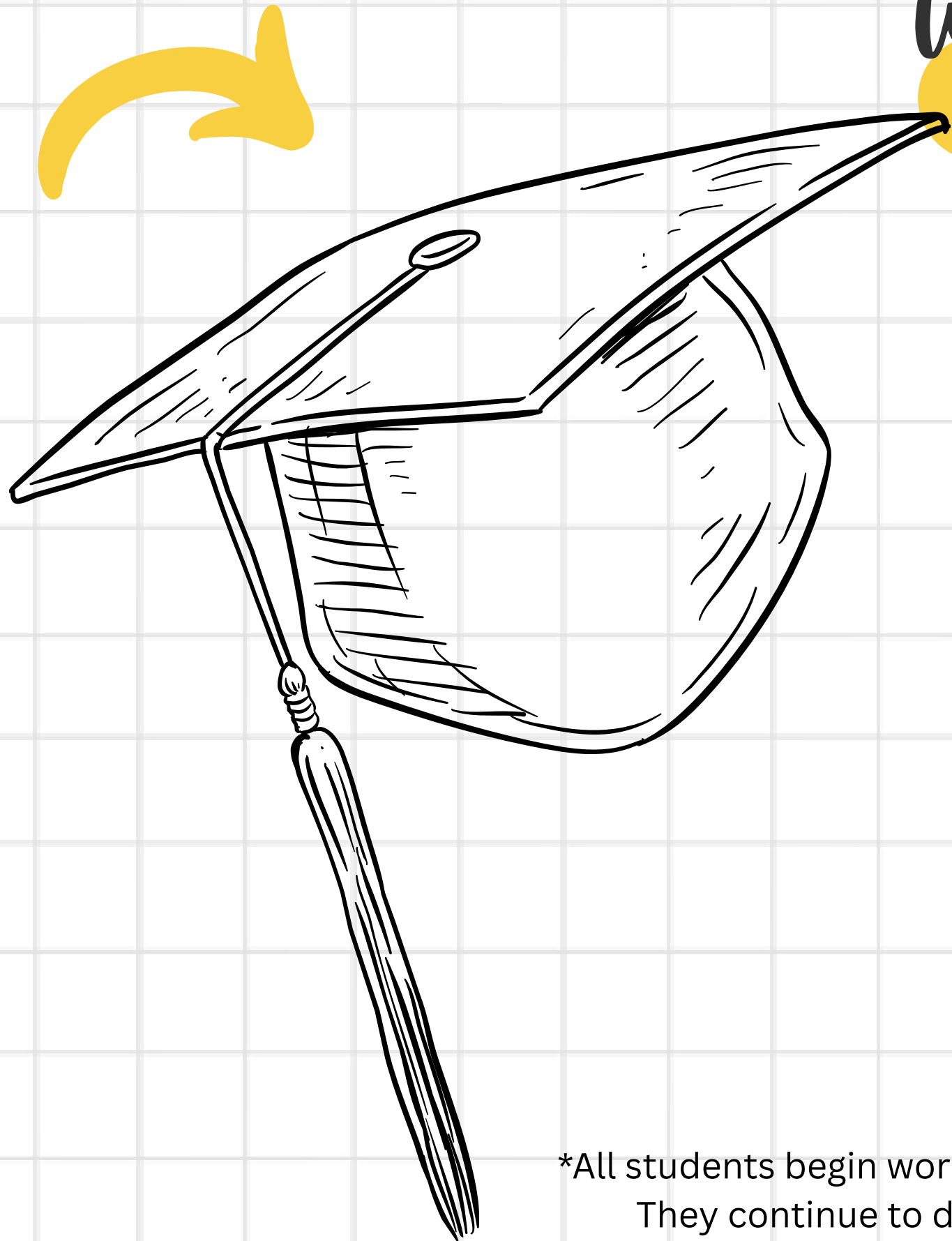


In State: 81%
Out of State/Int'l: 19%



***In recent years, many families have opted to attend two year universities because of the rising costs of a four-year degree. There are programs in NC that guarantee you a spot in a NC 4 year institution if you complete the two year degree first(UNC system/NC State)**

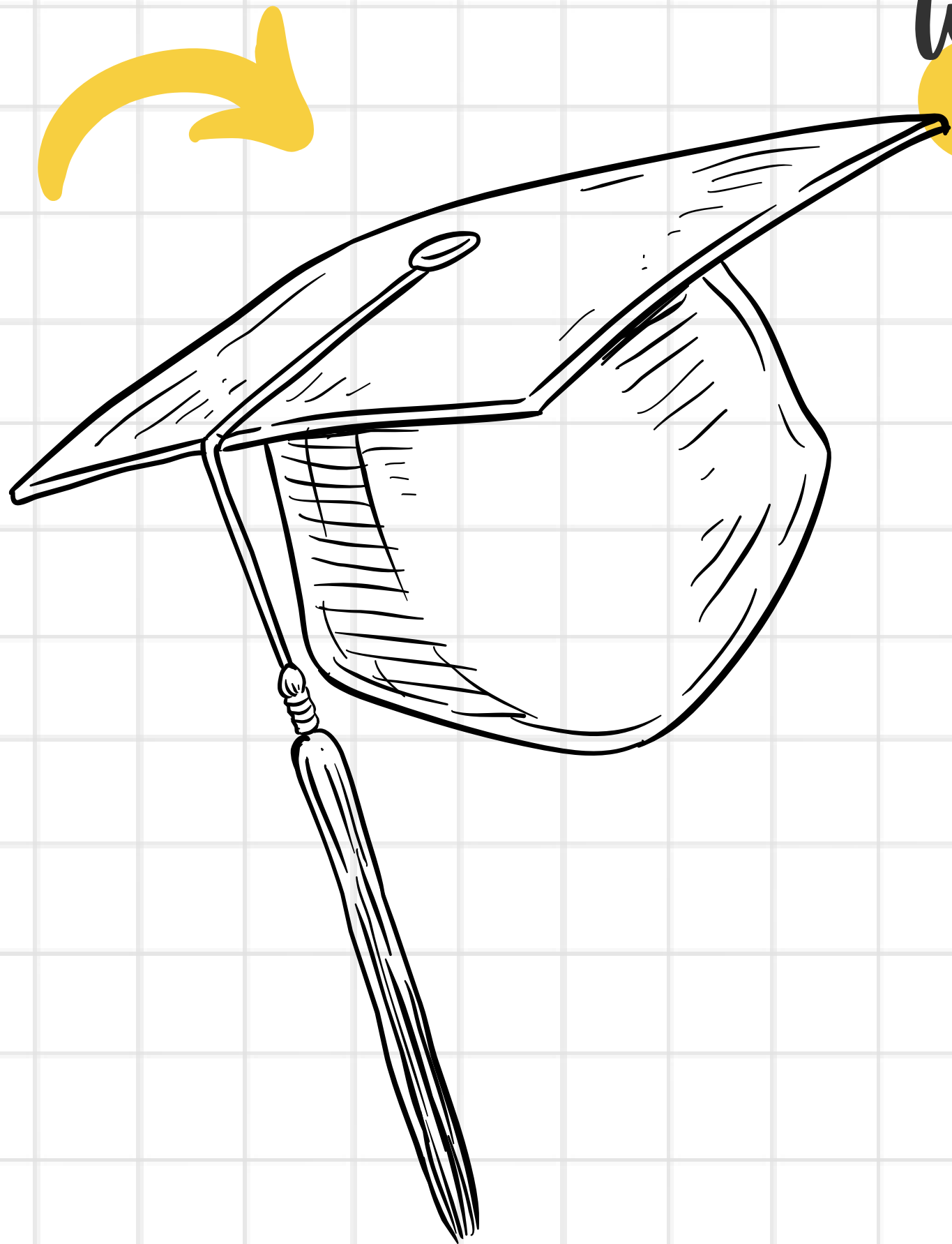
What we've been doing to support students



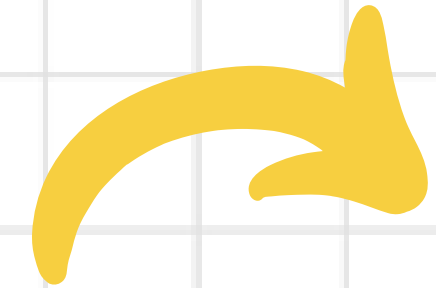
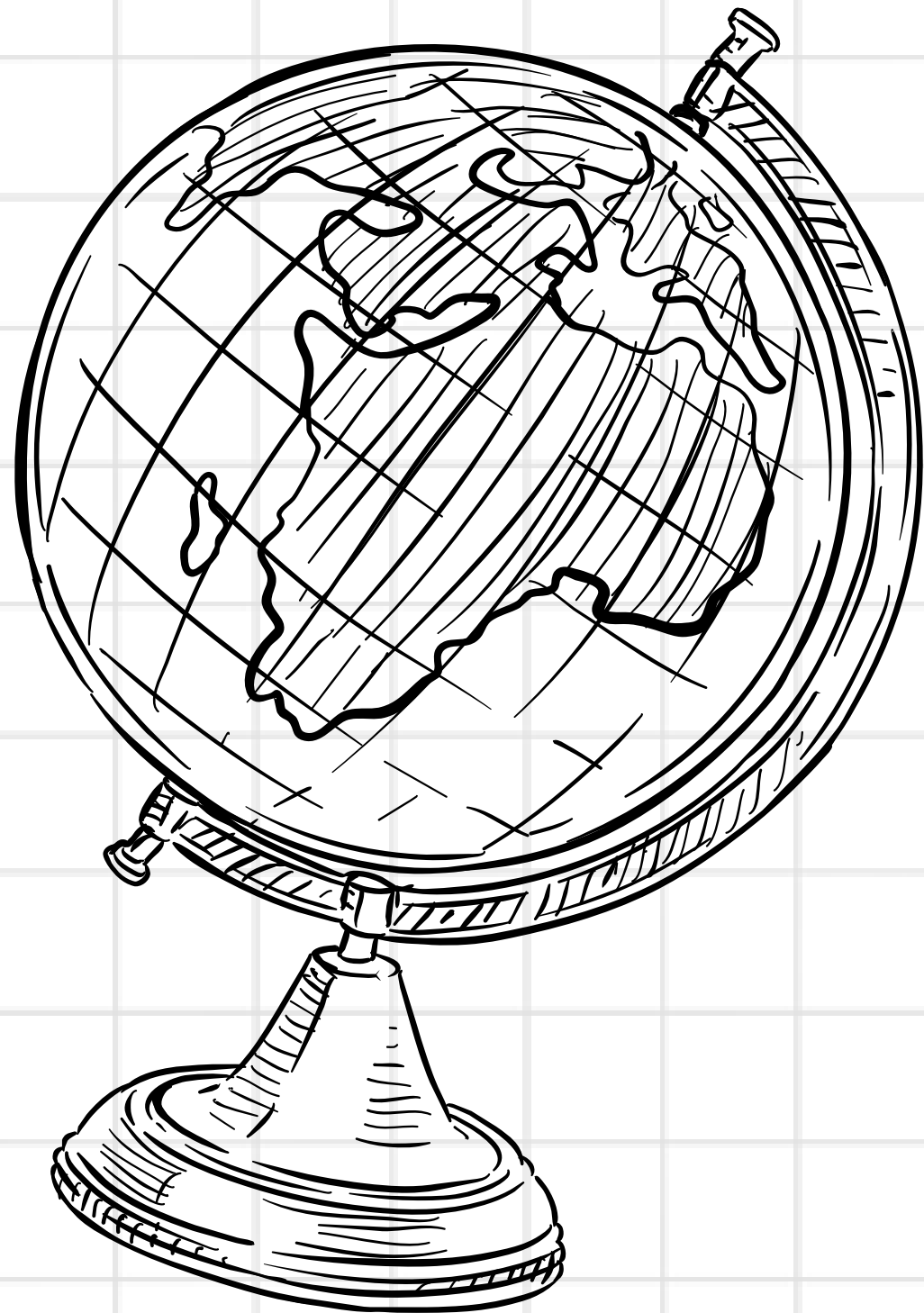
- Freshman: encouraged to get involved with school community and begin tracking their involvement. Discuss GPA's and their role in college admissions
- Sophomore: encouraged to visit at least one college of interest and prepare for upcoming tests
- Junior: individual meetings with College advisor to begin application process and develop individualized plans
- Seniors: meet with college advisors and college admissions reps. Complete application process

*All students begin working with a college advisors on an individual basis starting their Junior year. They continue to do so through their senior year, regardless of their postsecondary plans.

What we've been doing to support students



- Several presentations/webinars are held throughout the year to assist students with Financial Aid, FAFSA, ACT/SAT prep.
- College Application Kickoff for Juniors
- Senior Application Day
- School Counselors push into seminars to support students with scheduling and pathways
- School Counselors send out internship opportunities for students in various fields to help them gain exposure and experience

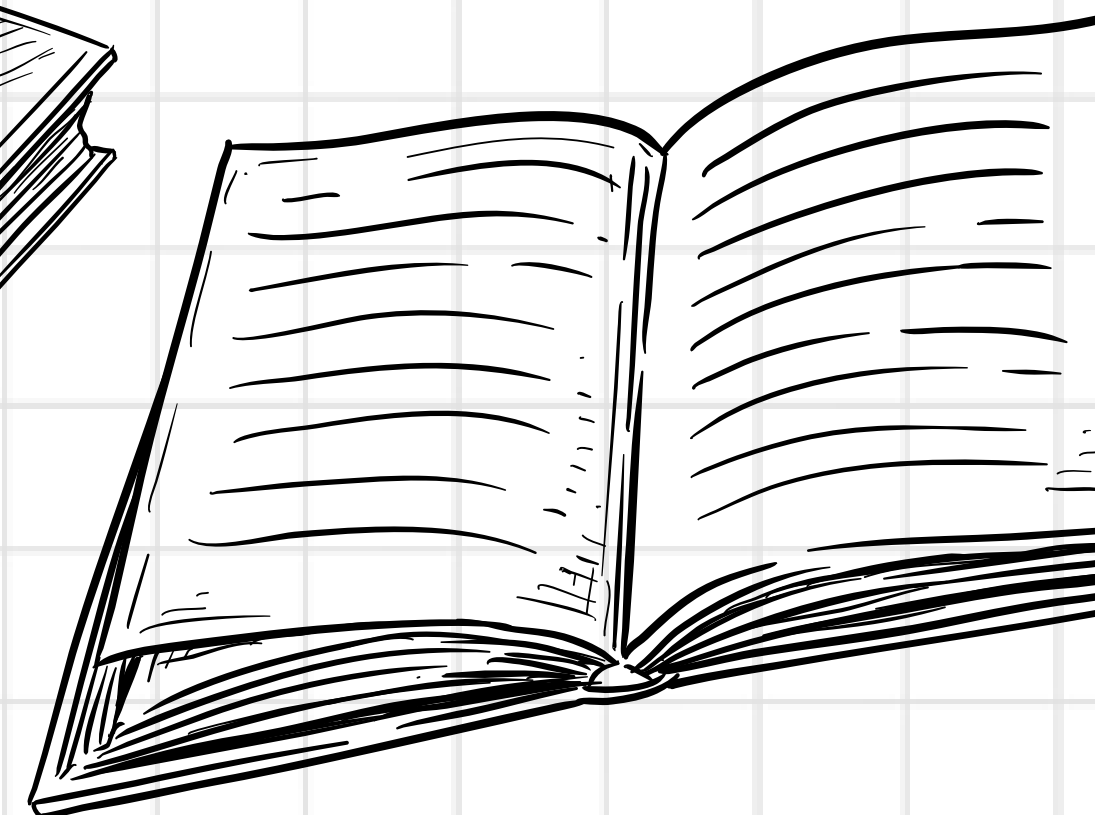


Class of 2026 Stats

- 84% (113) seniors have submitted 798 applications to 178 colleges (includes both four-year and two-year colleges)
- 76% (101) seniors have been accepted to at least one college (includes both four-year and two-year colleges)
- 26% (34) seniors have enrolled in a college (includes both four-year and two-year colleges)
- We have students who have received offers to Stanford, Princeton, Cornell, and UPenn.

Conclusion

Overall, RTHS students are well-prepared for life after graduation.



Just a note

Teacher Working Conditions results will be available around the first week of May. RTHS response rate was 75%

