

¹ Instead of a general curriculum that includes explicit college essay preparation, it is up to the schools to determine what level of college essay preparation students will receive. This report will focus on efforts set forth by schools to further students' application essay writing skills

schools that required college application essay preparation, or application essay specific courses. Of the schools contacted, none required college application essays, and most did not have a formal essay writing program or notable efforts.

For example, Middlebury College and High School in Townshend, Vermont requires all seniors

to complete a

college application

essay.

High Schools in Other States

This VLRS team was unable to locate specific high schools that mandated or actually contained college essay preparation as a requirement in their curriculum. We found that several high schools' websites contain lists of resources for students to use in their endeavors. For example, the Homestead High School in Cupertino, CA has a resource page for college admissions. One of the subsections is called "College Essay Preparation" and contains links to several webpages that give tips for writing a good college essay.

settings did not complete at least one college application because of a required essay.⁹ In another study, Karen S. Paley, a professor at Rhode Island College, argues that students are 4