

NAVIGATING COLLEGE ADVISING AND ADMISSIONS

Understanding the Supreme Court's Ruling

Key Implications, Actions, and Guidance for School Counselors



This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to significantly limit the use of race in college admissions. The consideration of race as a status or category is no longer permitted. Colleges are evaluating their policies and considering what adjustments to make to comply with the ruling. It's important for school counselors to understand the impact of the ruling. It's also crucial for them to identify next steps students should take on their journey to college.

Summary and Implications

- In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the consideration of race as status in admissions decision-making is no longer permissible.
- Admissions offices may continue to ask about and consider a student's skills, knowledge, and character qualities associated with their experiences, including race (e.g., essays, short-answer questions).
- The court **did not limit** the consideration of:
 - First-generation status.
 - Socioeconomic status (SES).
 - Geography and other contextual factors.
- The court also didn't specifically address recruitment and outreach, pipeline and pathway programs, or scholarships and financial aid.
- Implications for admissions offices include adjusting policies and processes to comply with the law, ensuring staff are sufficiently trained to understand and implement the changes, and communicating admissions policies to students, families, and counselors.
- Although admissions offices need to make key decisions in the short term, responding to this ruling will require a long-term strategy to be both effective and durable.

Actions for School Counselors

College Board is collaborating with our partners in higher education to find ways to achieve their goals and deliver on their commitment to building more diverse classes consistent with the law. And we're also working with K–12 leaders and counselors to strengthen their efforts to advise and support students and families.

We welcome your partnership as we continue to develop additional K–12 information and resources to help you in your work with families. Learn more at collegeboard.org/race-in-admissions.

Research

- Search college websites for admissions policies and updates to assist in advising your students.
- Review additional sources on this topic to educate yourself about the implications for admissions, financial aid, and scholarships.

Engage

- Educate teachers and colleagues to be sure they're clear about admissions policies (e.g., letters of recommendation, essays)
- Invite and host school and campus visits to expose students to various institutions.
- Cultivate and deepen relationships with institutions for timely updates, insights, and shared understanding.

Dialogue

- Educate students and parents to ensure that they're accurately informed and prepared to support the process.
- Reassure families of their value to higher education. Encourage students to remain on their path to college.
- Continue the conversation with admissions and enrollment leaders as we continue to navigate this new landscape.

What Counselors Can Say to Students

- Talk about your full, authentic self in the admissions process.
- Rest assured that as your counselor, I'll continue to spotlight your talents, knowledge, skills, and character.
- Know that colleges and universities are looking for ways to admit students, not deny them.
- Don't forget that institutions value diversity and want students from diverse backgrounds on their campuses. The Court made the decision, not colleges and universities.

What College and Universities Want Counselors to Know

- Colleges and universities continue to value diversity and want your students on campus.
- Letters of recommendation that highlight your student's knowledge, talents, skills, and character qualities are important, especially considering the court's ruling.
- Students can and should continue to present their complete experience in the college application. Counselors should encourage them to do so.
- Colleges and universities will continue their efforts to reach all students from diverse backgrounds.

... we write to you today to affirm Rice's commitment to uphold diversity, equity, and inclusion as a core part of our educational experience and research mission, and our commitment to excellence."

— Reginald DesRoches, President; Amy Dittmar, Provost; and Alex Byrd, Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Rice University (TX)

"We'll remain a national leader by encouraging and supporting students of all backgrounds as they apply, enroll, and graduate from the University of Maryland. The educational value of campus diversity is one we'll not sacrifice."

— Darryll J. Pines, President; and Jennifer King Rice, Senior Vice President and Provost, University of Maryland

"... Caltech's commitment to cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive academic community remains central to our mission of expanding human knowledge for the benefit of society. We can't realize our full potential as individuals or as an institute without this commitment."

—Thomas F. Rosenbaum, President, Professor of Physics, and Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair, Caltech