

# *Stephen F. Austin High School*

**“Tradition Of Excellence Since 1881”**

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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1715 West Cesar Chavez • Austin, Texas 78703-4699 • (512) 414-2505

January 27, 2021

Dear College Admission Advisors,

The pandemic of 2020 has brought about change and difficulties on many levels to families, communities, and schools. Austin, Texas is no different. Since last spring, our local community has been in and out of stage 5, according to [Austin Public Health](#), resulting in mandates such as stay-at-home orders by local municipalities. Our schools have been impacted by the various stages of the pandemic resulting in virtual learning for the majority of students since March of 2020. Although the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has mandated schools remain open to learners, our school district has exercised caution and allowed families to choose what is best for their children. In addition, some of our faculty and staff have been granted accommodations to work remotely, some have taken leave, and many have chosen to resign. These challenges have impacted our services and ultimately the way in which our seniors engage in the college application process.

Austin High School prides itself on providing an academy experience that embraces the whole child. Under normal circumstances we work hard to provide academic advisement, college-career advisement, and student services. Each of these services have been compromised due to the pandemic. Our lead college admissions advisor has been on leave for the majority of the school year, one of our academic counselors took another position in the district, and we have had a vacancy in one of our registrar positions for over half of the school year. While we have worked hard to continue to provide timely assistance for our seniors requesting transcripts, letters of recommendation, and college advising, the circumstances, and the strain of the vacancies, has impacted our services.

Our students, especially seniors, take pride in their high school experience. They have shown patience while also taking into account a loss of socialization, travel, student gatherings, and traditions. We ask you to provide flexibility on deadlines for supplemental documents, and take these circumstances into consideration during your evaluation. We also request that colleges remain flexible with testing requirements for the class of 2022.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Amy Taylor

Tara Miller

*Amy Taylor*

*Tara Miller*

Austin High School Principal

Austin High School Lead College-Career Counselor