

# NEWS FROM

## Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA

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### Financial Aid Tip of the Month, November 2006

#### Pay attention to deadlines for scholarships, admissions

Now is the time high school seniors need to start paying close attention to application deadlines for college admissions and financial aid. Here are some tips from the Alabama Student Loan Program and The Student Loan People<sup>sm</sup>:

If you haven't yet picked a college, narrow your list by visiting schools and talking with students and your parents. You can also compare schools and take virtual campus tours at [www.AlabamaMentor.org](http://www.AlabamaMentor.org).

If you plan to go through the Early Decision process, which means you commit to going to a particular school in the fall, most schools request the applications be submitted about this time of year.

If you're going through the regular admissions process, now is the time to talk with teachers about writing recommendations and to work on your admissions essay if you have to write one. Many private colleges require an essay as part of the admissions process.

Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you're applying to determine if they require any financial aid forms other than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA. Unless you're starting college before July 1, you can't file the FAFSA until after the first of the year. But you should take a look at the information it requires so you'll be ready to file it as soon as you can.

Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered by your high school or in your area. If a company wants to charge you a fee for helping you with admissions and financial aid applications, make sure it's a reputable company by checking with the State Attorney General's office or Better Business Bureau in your area and the area where the firm is located.

For more information about financial aid and college planning, visit [www.AlabamaMentor.org](http://www.AlabamaMentor.org); write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.