

## Waring School College Admissions

### **Early Decision vs. Early Action**

The following statements are generally true. However, you **MUST** read the fine print for each school to which your child is considering an early application.

- ED, EDI and EDII (Early Decision) are binding. The Common Application and usually the individual applications include an Early Decision contract which you must sign and submit with your application.
- EA (Early Action) is not binding.
- Students can apply ED to only one school.
- In most cases, students can apply ED at one school and EA to one or more additional schools; if accepted at the ED school, they must immediately withdraw their applications to the other schools.
- If they are accepted at the ED school and also at an EA school, they are still bound by their contract to accept the ED school.
- If they change their minds and want to accept a school other than the ED school, both the ED and other school may withdraw their offers. If doubts exist, students should not apply ED.
- Students are usually released from the binding ED contract only if the financial aid package is insufficient.
- EA is an “iffy” strategy to get ahead of the pack. Some schools claim the regular admissions pool is stronger than the EA pool; they accept a smaller percent from the EA candidates to leave places for regular admissions applicants. Other schools, for reasons of equity, accept the same percent from each pool. Still others favor the EA pool. Check each school’s Admissions statistics on their current freshmen class.
- ED schools usually don't notify applicants until December 15—the deadline at many schools for many Regular Admissions. We mail the school reports and transcripts the day before vacation (ditto teacher recommendations). Therefore, for January 1 deadlines, students should plan to have applications completed by December 15, regardless of the ED school decisions.

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