Text4College
text4college.com

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) is partnering with Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the Connecticut State Department of Education to study whether text message reminders help students complete important college enrollment tasks. The study is funded by a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. To learn more about the study, please visit www.text4college.com. All graduating seniors in your child's school will be invited to participate in the study. Participation is voluntary.

Participation is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Your student will…

1	**Complete a 15-minute online survey.** The survey will include 15 questions. Students will be asked to identify their race and ethnicity, what types of college supports are available in their school or in their community and whether they have used these supports, and what their plans are after graduation. This will help the researchers understand which students the text messages help the most. Students can choose not to participate in the study at any time. If they choose to participate, they will provide a cell phone number at which they would like to receive text messages from their college of choice. We will not share their phone number with anyone or use it for any purpose other than sending the text messages.
2	**Receive 10 to 15 text messages in _the summer before_ college**. Researchers will identify students to receive these text messages using a lottery. Selected students will receive messages about tasks they need to complete *prior to* the start of the fall semester. If students have questions or need help, they can text back and get connected to a real person trained to help them with these college tasks. Students can opt out of text messages at any time. Students who are not selected to receive text messages as part of this study will continue to have access to all supports typically provided to students before they begin college.
3	**Receive 10 to 15 text messages in _the first year_ of college**. Researchers will choose some of the students who received the summer text messages and enrolled in college to continue receiving messages through their first year. Again, students will be chosen using a lottery. Selected students will receive 10 to 15 additional text messages about tasks they need to complete *to stay enrolled the next year* of college. As with the summer text messages, students will be able to text back and get connected to a real person who can provide help and answer questions on required college tasks. Students can opt out of text messages at any time. Those students not selected to receive text messages as part of this study will continue to have access to all supports typically provided by the college they attend.

Why should my student participate?

Participation is easy and does not take much time. Text messages will remind students to complete important tasks required by their college. Students can text back to connect with trained staff if they need help or have questions. Participating may help your student get to college and stay in college!

What are the risks to participating?

There are no risks to participating in this study.

How will AIR protect my student's information?

AIR follows best practices for securing and protecting student data. Students' names and dates of birth will be shared only to match them to their state ID assigned by the state educational agency and college ID. After use, the data will then be destroyed. We will not share this information with anyone else for any other purpose. AIR will share students' cell phone numbers only with the texting organization. Students' survey responses will be used by AIR to determine which students are eligible for the text messages and which students benefit the most from receiving them. AIR will not provide cell phone numbers or any individual student's survey data to high schools, colleges, or anyone else. For more information about AIR's data security, please contact the study team at text4college@air.org.

Do you have questions about this study?

Please email the study team at text4college@air.org or call us toll-free at (877) 231-7813.

Do you have questions about your child's rights as a research participant?

Please contact AIR's Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is responsible for the protection of project participants, at IRB@air.org, toll free at (800) 634-0797, or c/o IRB, 1000 Thomas Jefferson St. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

If your student will participate, you do not need to take further action. You're all set!

If you would like to opt out on behalf of your child (i.e. you do NOT want them to participate), please email the following information to text4college@air.org:

- High school name, city, and state
- Student's first and last name
- Parent/guardian's first and last name
- A note that says "Please remove my student from the Text4College Study."