



Dear Parents,

We are writing to acknowledge an alternative application for college admission, [Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success](#), otherwise referred to as “The Coalition” or “The Coalition Application.” We want to share our insights thus far as it has received increasing attention in the press. As a result of conversations between our office and Coalition members throughout the past year, we are confident that this initiative will not have an immediate impact on our students.

Two years ago a group of public and private post-secondary institutions came together with the goal of removing the “barriers that keep low-income and first-generation students from attending and graduating from college” by creating technological resources that might not otherwise be available to underserved populations. This suite of tools includes a college application as well as a new platform allowing students to store work samples from as early as 9th grade. We acknowledge, admire and support the Coalition’s efforts to leverage technology to expand access for students who often lack basic support services for their college admission process.

In contrast, Breck students receive exemplary support and expertise not only from the College Counseling Office but from the wider community including faculty, coaching staff, and advisors. Our collective work is rooted firmly in Breck’s mission to “prepare each student for a college whose culture is compatible with the individual’s needs, interests and abilities.” **While the Coalition Application echoes Breck’s mission, our students are not currently the intended users for this application.** Representatives from member institutions with whom we are in frequent communication emphasize that, as always, Breck students should continue to focus on excelling academically, devising a personalized testing plan, and pursuing their passions. Coalition members have also continually reaffirmed their desire to see and hear from Breck students at the peak of their high school career rather than focusing on specific work from various moments throughout their high school journey.

In the end, the college application process affords each student the opportunity to voice his or her unique story and to convey fit. Coalition members have assured us that applicants will “submit essentially the same application questions as they would if they used the Common Application.” We will continue to monitor Coalition Application development; however, we firmly believe the Common Application and existing application processes serve our students well. As such, we look forward as we begin to work with the Class of 2018 this spring on [The Common Application](#).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nicholson, Susan Graham, and Andrea O’Connell