

Thoughts on Being Deferred

We recommend that you consider the following approaches to your early action/decision school:

First and foremost, your fall semester grades are important. Enough said. Many colleges will request to see first and second marking period grades, so don't fall victim to senioritis!

Second, a short but thoughtful letter to the college is an important touch. The letter should be a short statement reaffirming your desire to attend your early application school, updating your file with any new information and simply thanking them for giving you an opportunity to be reviewed again in the spring pool. It is important to strike an upbeat and positive tone. You can send it out after you return to school from winter break so you can focus your energies on your regular action applications. We are happy to review your letter with you in January.

Third, if you feel you want one last shot at improving your SAT I or SAT II scores, you have until December to sign up for the January test date. The colleges will get your scores in mid-February before they hit their final rounds of committee or folder reading. You'll want to alert your college(s) of this so they can be on the lookout for new scores.

Fourth, if you are doing really exceptionally well in one class with a teacher who has not written for you, you might want to consider asking him or her to write a short letter of recommendation describing your performance in the class this year. This will be more the exception than the rule, so don't worry if no one comes to mind for you.