

# NC Countdown to College

Site Coordinator Training

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CFNC Outreach Team

# Agenda

- CFNC Overview
  - What is CFNC?
  - Tools to use before NC Countdown to College (C2C)
  - ProTools – access instructions
- C2C Overview
  - What is C2C?
  - September - Education Professionals Month
  - October - month overview and activities
  - College Application Week
- Q & A





A free resource for North Carolina students and families to  
Plan, Apply, and Pay for College!



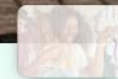
- Comprehensive website (English & Spanish) at **CFNC.org**
- Toll-free telephone advice at 866.866.CFNC
- “Boots on the ground” in every area code in NC
- Educator resources
- Financial tools
- Began in 2000



[ESPAÑOL](#)[EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS](#)[FAFSA TOOLS](#)[ABOUT US](#)[CONTACT US](#)[LOG IN](#)[Plan Your Future](#)[Apply to College](#)[Pay for College](#)[Save for College](#)

# Find Your Future

It takes planning to get where you want to go. We have everything you need to know about colleges and careers, and the tools to help you make a plan and stay on track.

[Plan Your Future](#)

# Tools to Use Before NC Countdown to College (C2C)

1. [Creating CFNC Accounts](#)
2. [Career Assessments](#)
3. [Explore Programs/Majors](#)
4. [College Search](#)

CFNC

College Foundation

of North Carolina

ESPAÑOL

EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

FAFSA T

Plan Your Future

Apply to College

Find a Program/Major

Search

Search Programs

Or

Browse Career Clusters

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource

Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications

Education and Training

Government and Public Administration

Hospitality and Tourism

Information Technology

Manufacturing Career

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Architecture and Construction

Business, Management and Administration

Finance

Health Science

Human Service

Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security

Marketing Sales and Service

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

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Plan For A Career

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Learn About Yourself

Learn About Yourself

CFNC.org has partnered with NCCareers.org, the experts on careers and employment in North Carolina, to bring you updated career assessments and information.

Interest Profiler

Figure out what interests you have and match them to careers.

Duration: 10-20 minutes

[Interest Profiler](#)

Career Cluster Survey

Find out which career cluster is right for you with this quick survey.

Duration: 15-25 minutes

[Career Cluster Survey](#)

Basic Skills Survey

Find out what careers require your basic skills.

Duration: 10-15 minutes

[Basic Skills Survey](#)

Transferable Skills Checklist

See how the skills you've learned can lead to new opportunities.

Duration: 30 minutes

[Transferable Skills Checklist](#)

Work Values Sorter

Find your work values and match them to career options.

Duration: 5-15 minutes

[Work Values Sorter](#)

The Career Key

Discover your career interest areas in a few quick steps.

Duration: 10-15 minutes

[The Career Key](#)

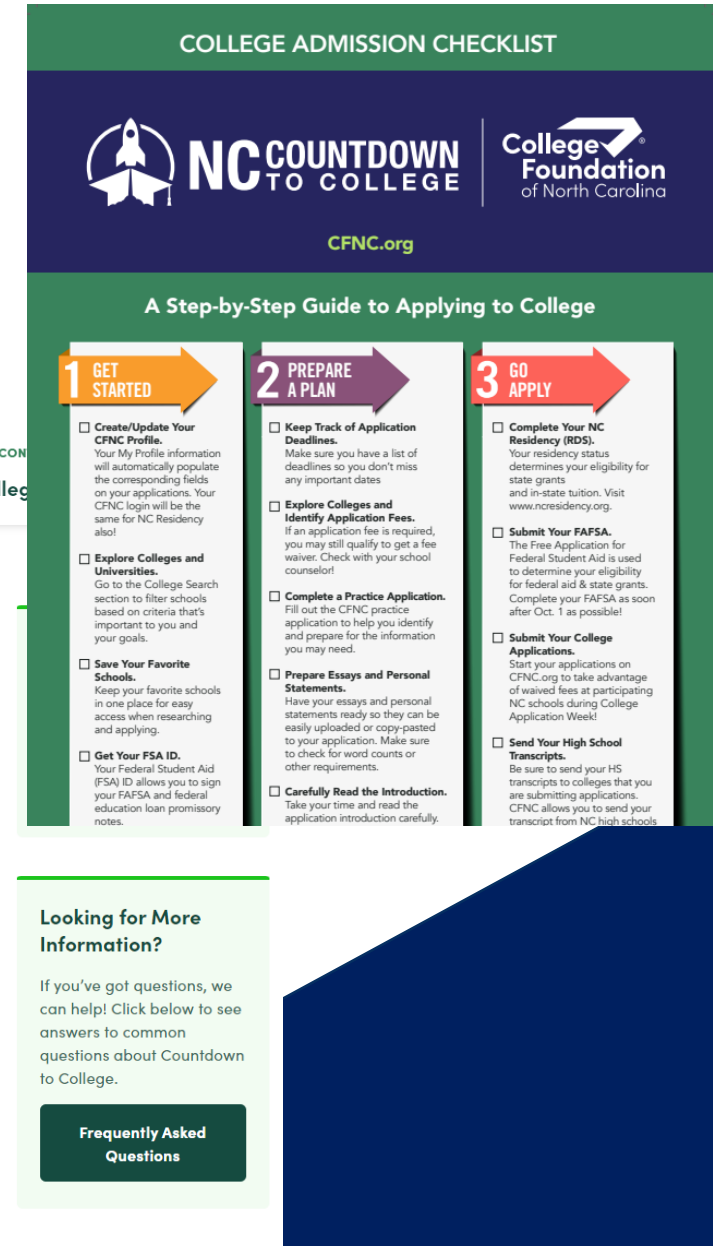
# Tools to Use Before NC Countdown to College (C2C)

5. Review [CFNC.org/C2C](https://cfnc.org/C2C)
6. Print off the [College Admissions Checklist](#) for students – remind them That the FAFSA will *not* open on October 1<sup>st</sup> this year.

Others?



The screenshot shows the CFNC (College Foundation of North Carolina) website for NC Countdown to College. The header includes the CFNC logo and navigation links for ESPAÑOL, EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS, FAFSA TOOLS, ABOUT US, and CONTACT. Below the header, there are three main sections: 'Plan Your Future', 'Apply to College', and 'Pay for College'. The 'Apply to College' section is highlighted. The main content area features the NC Countdown to College logo and the text 'Residency | FAFSA | Applications'. Below this, it states: 'Countdown to College (C2C) supports college access every October. C2C activities help high school seniors complete three important college enrollment steps: residency, FAFSA, and applications. Many NC colleges and universities will support C2C by waiving application fees during College Application Week.' Further down, it says: 'NC Countdown to College will take place during the month of October of 2023 and College Application Week (when many NC colleges have free applications) will be Oct 16-20.' At the bottom, there are three small images: a student reading, a student working on a laptop, and a student talking to a teacher.



The graphic is a 'COLLEGE ADMISSION CHECKLIST' from the NC Countdown to College program, provided by the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC.org). It is titled 'A Step-by-Step Guide to Applying to College' and is divided into three main sections, each with a numbered arrow icon: 1. GET STARTED, 2. PREPARE A PLAN, and 3. GO APPLY. Each section contains a list of tasks with checkboxes. Section 1 includes: 'Create/Update Your CFNC Profile', 'Explore Colleges and Universities', 'Save Your Favorite Schools', and 'Get Your FSA ID'. Section 2 includes: 'Keep Track of Application Deadlines', 'Explore Colleges and Identify Application Fees', 'Complete a Practice Application', 'Prepare Essays and Personal Statements', and 'Carefully Read the Introduction'. Section 3 includes: 'Complete Your NC Residency (RDS)', 'Submit Your FAFSA', 'Submit Your College Applications', and 'Send Your High School Transcripts'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Looking for More Information?' with a link to 'Frequently Asked Questions'.



# ProTools – Overview and Access Instructions

- Access your [ProTools](https://cfnc.org/protools) account – cfnc.org/protools
- Assist students with login issues *prior* to College Application Week (CAW)
- Review application process, transcript tracking, do career reporting, and more.
- Robust [ProTools help center](#)

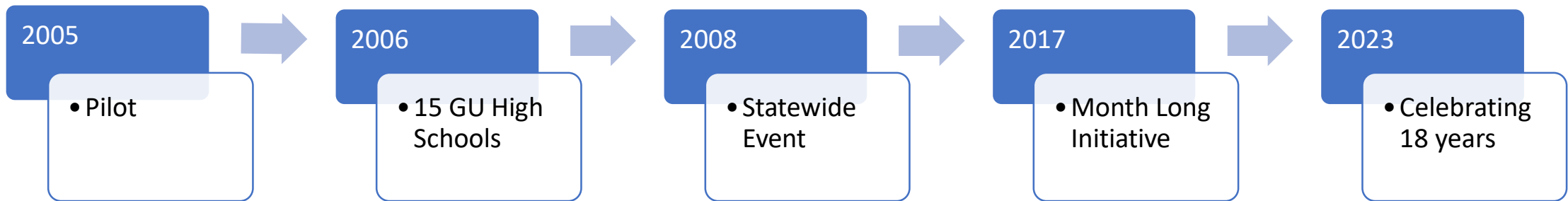
There are two steps in gaining access to ProTools:

1. Ensure that you have a CFNC.org account tied to your official school/organization email address. You can either create a new CFNC.org account or edit the email address in an existing account (My Dashboard > My Profile).
2. Complete the [online request form](#) to add ProTools permissions to your CFNC.org account. Please allow 2 weeks for verification of your school/organization affiliation and processing.



# What is NC Countdown to College?

North Carolina Countdown to College (C2C) is a statewide initiative sponsored by CFNC. It is a month long initiative that encompasses FAFSA, RDS, and applications.



The goal of the C2C initiative is to increase the number of students who pursue postsecondary education by assisting high school seniors with the college admissions process (residency, FAFSA, and applications) and ensuring that each participating student submits at least one admissions application.

**Students MUST begin on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org)**

# September Overview

During September, C2C and CFNC offers an [entire month](#) of professional development opportunities, with CEUs offered. These trainings focus on the three main areas of C2C: residency, FAFSA, and admissions, in a variety of unique ways.



**We Can Help Education Professionals Prepare for Countdown to College!**

We have two C2C Site Coordinator Trainings planned in August and September, and have moved Education Professionals Training to an entire month this year, offering 8 sessions in September and CEU credits.

# Sample C2C Planning Timeline Suggestion

September

## Objectives

1. Gather resources and make reservations for C2C programs
2. Connect with parents and families about RDS
3. Continue ongoing student-facing initiatives

## Planning Tasks

- Request funding & prize donations
- Determine CAW structure
- Reserve computer lab, library, classroom space for CAW
- Begin organizing family financial aid nights
- Continue classroom workshops – introduce FAFSA & create FSA ID's

Don't get overwhelmed! Just doing one or two of these is great!



# Sample C2C Planning Timeline Suggestion

September

## Objectives

1. Prepare students and families to complete RDS
2. Get buy-in from school staff
3. Solidify C2C outreach

## Planning Tasks

- Share C2C plans with teachers and staff
- Design outreach materials (fliers, bulletin board, etc.) for C2C – CAW, etc.
- Confirm C2C workshop speakers (ex: CFNC Spanish Services)
- Continue classroom workshops – college list building, RDS, financial aid awareness, etc.
- Promote and have students collect necessary materials for RDS drive

Don't get overwhelmed! Just doing one or two of these is great!

# Sample C2C Planning Timeline Suggestion

September

## Objectives

1. Promote C2C school-wide
2. Big push for RDS completion
3. Final planning stages of C2C

## Planning Tasks

- Check which students still need to make CFNC accounts, FSA ID's, etc.
- Start spreading the word to students about C2C
- Track how many students are completing at least 1 college application
- Continue classroom workshops – college application and essay writing
- Host RDS drive and supplemental College Application Clinic

Don't get overwhelmed! Just doing one or two of these is great!

# October Overview and Activities

## Planning Your Site for NC C2C

- Perform technology preparations
  - Ensure your IT staff reviews the list of whitelisted websites.
  - Work with technology support staff to ensure that firewalls or other access restrictions will not prevent students from accessing online applications the day of the event.
- Coordinate a site team and reach out to volunteers
- Plan your events - suggested themes:
  - Week 1: Plan Your Future
  - Week 2: RDS & FAFSA
  - Week 3: College Application Week
  - Week 4: I Applied, What's Next?
- Promote your events



# October Overview and Activities

- [Virtual student sessions](#) happening throughout the month
  - Spanish services offered during select student sessions
- [Virtual Career Fair](#) on October 5, 2023 3:30-5pm
- College Application Week: October 16-20<sup>th</sup> (to 11:59pm on 10/20/23)
  - List of colleges who have opted to waive fees will be released on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Resources available in English & Spanish
- Visit CFNC.org/c2c or <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/nc-countdown-to-college/for-schools/> for more information!

# Activity Suggestions

Remember not to get overwhelmed! Pick 1 or 2 activities to do with students each week during October. For example –

## Week One:

- ✓ Meet with all seniors to ensure they can log into their CFNC accounts & have the correct HS listed.
- ✓ Encourage students to attend our [virtual career fair](#).
- ✓ Consider holding a parent meeting with one of our [Spanish Services Reps](#) for DACA students or mixed-status families.

## Week Two:

- ✓ Send information home with all seniors about **RDS** and [why](#) it needs to be completed. Also, a simple direction sheet with information on [where](#) to access it.
- ✓ Hold a Financial Aid Information session for students & parents in the evening (record & send out for those who could not attend). Encourage them to get their [FSA IDs](#). Consider reaching out to your local college's financial aid office and your [CFNC Regional Representative](#).

# Activity Suggestions

## Week Three:

- ✓ College Application Week! Get your whole school involved!
  - ✓ Have teachers wear their alma matter apparel & list what college they attended [outside their classroom doors](#).
  - ✓ Have 1-5 days open for students to complete college applications in a computer lab
  - ✓ Share these [Admissions Essay Tips](#) with your students

## Week Four:

- ✓ Encourage students to (virtually) attend sessions this week about next steps
- ✓ Plan events with your [CFNC Regional Representatives](#) to present these next steps to students and/or parents in-person.
- ✓ Offer a [handout](#) to all seniors on what to expect next –
  - ✓ RDS – RCNs and reconsiderations
  - ✓ FAFSA – Offer letters
  - ✓ College Admissions



# Best Practice Idea

A vertical poster for 'College Application Week at Avery High, Oct. 19th-30th'. The poster is divided into several colored sections: orange, yellow, and purple. It features an illustration of a student sitting on a stack of books, using a laptop. The text provides details about an open workshop, prizes for participation, and a competition to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Contact information for Ms. Kallie is at the bottom.

**College Application Week at Avery High, Oct. 19th-30th**

**Open Workshop Space in Student Services**

Everyday of College Application Week from 7:30am-3:30pm

Come work on anything related to college with help from Ms. Kallie and your counselors.

Workshop 3 or more times for at least 15 min during the 2 weeks and win a free college prize (T-shirts, masks, bags, water bottles, school supplies, etc.)

**What is College Application Week?**

A time period from Oct. 19th-30th that you can apply to a bunch of colleges & universities in NC for FREE! (Application fees are waived at participating colleges and universities)

**Whichever senior applies to the most schools during College Application Week will win a \$50 Amazon GiftCard!**

For further details, or questions, email Ms. Kallie at [kalliekressly@averyschools.net](mailto:kalliekressly@averyschools.net)

## Offer prize incentives:

- Students who workshopped 45 min or more got free college swag prize
- Application competition: student who applied to the most colleges during CAW got a free \$50 Amazon gift card

**Credit: Kallie Kressly**  
**Former College Adviser | App State**

# College Application Week

1. The NC College Application Week will be held **October 16, 2023- October 20, 2023.**
2. None of the NC community colleges charge application fees.
3. Majority of colleges and universities will accept the SAT, ACT, and NCAC fee waiver.
4. A list of all colleges and universities that will be waiving their application fee can be found on **CFNC.org/C2C – available October 1!**
5. **Students MUST begin on CFNC.org!**

# Preparing for CAW

- **Advertising:**

- Weekly emails to seniors & parents
- CAW free apps lists
- Email and in-class reminders leading up to CAW
- Flyers
- Eye-catching bulletin board

- **College application and college essay workshops**

- Senior heavy classrooms, virtual & in-person
- 1-2 weeks before CAW

- **Coordinated with guidance counselors to plan programming**

- **Requesting donations for prizes**





## Contact Your Local CFNC Representative

### Amy Denton – 252 area

Phone – [252.402.6157](tel:252.402.6157)  
Facebook – [Amy at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [amyatcfnc](#)

[amy.denton@cfl.org](mailto:amy.denton@cfl.org)

### Takeila Hall – 336 area

Phone – [336.402.5622](tel:336.402.5622)  
Facebook – [Takeila at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [takeilaatcfnc](#)

[takella.hall@cfl.org](mailto:takella.hall@cfl.org)

### Timeka Ruffin – 704/980 area

Phone – [704.281.3437](tel:704.281.3437)  
Facebook – [Timeka at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [timekaatcfnc](#)

[timeka.ruffin@cfl.org](mailto:timeka.ruffin@cfl.org)

### Devon McCarthy-James – 828 West area

Phone – [828.712.9840](tel:828.712.9840)  
Facebook – [DevonAtCFNC](#)  
Instagram – [devonatcfnc](#)

[devon.mccarthy-james@cfl.org](mailto:devon.mccarthy-james@cfl.org)

### Skip Watts – 828 East area

Phone – [828.337.7939](tel:828.337.7939)  
Facebook – [Skip at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [skipatcfnc](#)

[skip.watts@cfl.org](mailto:skip.watts@cfl.org)

### Brittany Privott – 910 area

Phone – [910.280.1883](tel:910.280.1883)  
Facebook – [Brittany at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [brittanyatcfnc](#)

[brittany.privott@cfl.org](mailto:brittany.privott@cfl.org)

### Sarita Broadway – 919 area

Phone – [919.264.3686](tel:919.264.3686)  
Facebook – [Sarita at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [saritaatcfnc](#)

[sarita.broadway@cfl.org](mailto:sarita.broadway@cfl.org)

### Juana Hernandez-Lira – Spanish Services

Phone – [919.799.3779](tel:919.799.3779)  
Facebook – [Juana at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [juanaatcfnc](#)

[juana.hernandez-lira@cfl.org](mailto:juana.hernandez-lira@cfl.org)

### Dr. JuanEs Ramirez – Spanish Services

Phone – [984.297.1032](tel:984.297.1032)  
Facebook – [JuanEs at CFNC](#)  
Instagram – [juanesatcfnc](#)

[juanes.ramirez@cfl.org](mailto:juanes.ramirez@cfl.org)



# Let's Get the Ball Rolling!

**Questions or  
suggestions?  
Drop them in  
the chat!**

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Community Outreach

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CFNC Outreach Team