

*In this activity, students will research and compare various aspects of the higher education options they may be interested in pursuing.*

**COLLEGE: ACTIVITY 1**

# COMPARE THE OPTIONS

1. Open discussion by asking students to share some of the educational options they are considering after high school. If an out-of-state school is on their list, review the pros and cons in the article on page 24 to find out how other Florida students rate the out-of-state college experience.
2. Copy and distribute the “Comparing the Options” worksheet. Ask students to choose three or four schools and complete the chart with key information for each school. Refer students to the “Get Smart Guide” on page 52 in NEXT as a starting point for evaluating Florida schools; provide time for students to research individual school websites for more information.
3. Have students share their findings with the class. Ask the following questions:
  - Were you surprised by anything you learned?
  - Which factors are most important to you?
  - Were there any additional factors that weren’t listed on the chart that are important to you?

**Take it to the NEXT level:**

1. Have students contact each school they are considering and request more information, or even schedule a campus visit.
2. Invite former students who have gone on to various higher education institutions to come in and share their experiences.

To follow reading and discussion of *Out of State Out of Mind* on page 24.



**Florida Standards Assessment**

- SP.PK12.TP.5.3a  
Initiate and participate in conversations with adults and peers.

**Materials/Preparation**

- Copies of “Comparing the Options” worksheet
- Internet access for students

College Activity 1: Compare the Options Worksheet

	SCHOOL #1	SCHOOL #2	SCHOOL #3	SCHOOL #4
Schools You Are Considering				
Tuition				
Degree Program or Certificate Offered				
Length of Program				
Enrollment				
Average SAT/ACT Scores				
Percentage of Applicants Accepted				
Scholarship/Financial Aid Available				
Campus Location				
Distance from Home				
On/Off-Campus Housing Costs				
Travel or Commuting Costs				
Near/On-Campus Employment				
Academic Facilities				
Extracurricular Activities				
Athletics and intramurals				