New York Cares’ Teen Education programs mobilize hundreds of volunteers to provide individual attention, academic assistance, and college preparation for high school students. Our partners for these projects include New York City public schools and community-based organizations.

**Sophomore Skills**
High school sophomores work in small groups with volunteers to strengthen their basic math, reading and writing skills, resulting in improved scores on Regents and SAT exams. At the end of this project, students will have taken another crucial step in their path towards a college education. Tutoring starts in March and runs through June.

**FAFSA Preparation**
Volunteers help high school seniors realize their dreams of attending college by helping them secure financial aid. Trained by financial aid experts, our volunteers assist families one-on-one as they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and supplemental financial aid applications. This program starts in October and runs through December.

**College Preparation**
Volunteers guide high school seniors through the college application process and help them prepare successful admission applications. Our volunteers meet with eager high school seniors to narrow down college choices, complete applications, craft personal statements, secure letters of recommendation and successfully transition into college life. Projects meet weekly, monthly or as one-time workshops beginning in September and run through December.

**SAT Preparation**
High School juniors take part in a seven-month evening or weekend SAT course to strengthen their test-taking skills and increase their chances of getting into the college of their choice. With the help of dedicated volunteer tutors, last year’s students increased their average score by more than 200 points. Every tutor receives five hours of comprehensive training to effectively tutor small groups of two to five students for the duration of the school year. Training begins in July and tutoring starts in October.

**Understanding Financial Aid Workshops**
Trained volunteers work with high school seniors during this one-time workshop to interpret financial aid award letters from colleges they have been accepted to. Topics explored include how to analyze and compare financial aid packages, understand grants and scholarships, and how to calculate the costs associated with federal and private loans. This program runs in April and May.