

11th
Grade

Preparing for College and Post-Secondary Success Parent Checklist

Important ways
you can
support your
child

If your child has a dream of college, you can help them make that dream come true. If you aren't sure how, you can use these checklists to help your child stay on track to achieve their academic goals

Excelling in school
matters -
Keep that momentum
going!



Engage with your
student about their
academic progress!

Emphasize their need to continue to do well in school ✓

- Help your student set goals and plans for the academic year.
- Attendance and grades matter, so review their grades with them regularly.
- Support your student by helping them adopt good study habits.

Remind them that it is important to choose the right classes ✓

- Have your student select classes with their school counselor.
- Be present and vocal in your expectations of your student.

Help them to be organized ✓

- Review your student's study and organizational needs and make any needed changes.
- Meet with your student's school counselor to verify your child is on track and prepared to graduate.
- Consider adding a list of your student's activities to an electronic file of their important documents.

Help them prepare for college admissions tests ✓

- Explore college test preparation techniques and programs if needed.
- FALL: Have your student take the PSAT/NSMQT to qualify for scholarships.
- FALL: Have your student take practice tests and learn helpful tips for the SAT or ACT.
- SPRING: Have your student sign up for and take the SAT or ACT.

Support their involvement ✓

- Encourage participation in school and community activities.
- Consider involving them in volunteer organizations you support.
- Think of a plan for summer where they can continue their community activities.



Be mindful of who they are spending time with ✓

- () Consider being a mentor or finding a family member or trusted adult who your student can talk to.
- () Acknowledge and commend your student's positive behaviors and actions so they can become role models for younger students.
- () Be mindful of who your student spends time with.



Help them make good choices! ✓

- () Do an online search with your student to see what colleges and future employers may see.
- () Discuss online safety. Stress that whatever you post or share can live online forever and have far reaching consequences.
- () Discuss the consequences of risky behaviors like drinking, doing drugs and having sex.

Help them examine their college and career choices ✓

- () Discuss your student's future career plans. Research different colleges and attend college fairs if there are any in your area.
- () Create a list of 5-10 colleges and universities that interest your student including their majors, in-state or out-of-state locations and admissions requirements. Make a list of deadlines for each of the colleges.
- () Research each institute online and participate in their virtual tours or explore their websites and social media.
- () If possible, visit your top college choices. Often a college or university will be able to provide you with a tour including an information session to answer your individual questions.
- () Explore training programs that provide career ready certificates



Learn about paying for college ✓

- () College is affordable. Contact your local college to speak with a Financial Aid representative to examine the process of applying for financial aid. Explore available scholarships online along with their requirements to see if you may be eligible.
- () Explore the different costs of college. Look at your colleges individually with a calculator to see how their courses and fees add up.
- () Complete the FAFSA4Caster (Federal Application for Student Aid Forecaster) to estimate how much financial aid you may be eligible to receive.
- () Set up and regularly contribute to a college savings account. Have your student contribute to that account as well with money earned from after-school or summer jobs.



Notes:

