

12th
Grade

Preparing for College and Post-Secondary Success Parent Checklist

Important ways
you can
support your
child

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

September



Engage with your
student about their
academic progress!

Make a post-high school plan ✓

- Help your student create a list of three careers they are interested in.
- Review their options for college and the most important criteria as well as the costs of each college.
- Cut their college list to the five you are most interested in and their Deadlines.

Emphasize the importance of staying on track ✓

- Have your student review their transcript with their guidance counselor to determine the right classes you need to apply for college.

Help them clean up their online act ✓

- Help your student create a professional email address.
- Examine and adjust privacy settings on social media accounts if needed.

Explore ways to pay for college ✓

- Explore financial aid and scholarship and make a list of deadline Information.
- Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID so you'll be ready to apply to FAFSA when it opens Oct. 1.
- Find out what financial paperwork you will need and get it ready to apply for federal financial aid.

Sign up for the ACT or SAT ✓

- Have your student sign up for the ACT or SAT if they have not taken it or want to re-take it.
- Prepare your student with ACT or SAT free test prep available online.

Look for situations that may be specific to your student ✓

- If your student is interested in the arts, military or playing sports in college, be aware of deadlines and special requirements for these Programs.
- If your student is undocumented, check their eligibility for in-state tuition at public community colleges and universities as well as state financial aid.

Look out for situations that are specific to your student (continued) ✓

- () If your student is male, they must register with Selective Service within 30 days (before or after) your 18th birthday. If they do not register, they will be ineligible for federal financial aid for college.
- () If your student has other special circumstances such as being a foster child, being homeless, a teen parent and/or have a disability, talk to a trusted adult or college representative to explore specific resources and support services for your situation.



Help your student prepare for their college applications ✓

- () Have your student document their accomplishments and make a sample resume.
- () Encourage them to practice writing college and scholarship essays
- () Help them narrow their lists of colleges, attend college fairs and find student reviews online.
- () Fill out and complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and attend a workshop for help if needed.
- () Help your student determine whom to ask for letters of recommendation and give them plenty of time to write them.
- () Have your student take or re-take the SAT or ACT.



Help your student BE READY ✓

- () Finalize the list of colleges and be sure to add them to the FAFSA application. 3-5 is a good number.
- () Continue to visit colleges and attend college fairs.
- () Check deadlines and gather all the information needed to apply for colleges, scholarships and FAFSA if you haven't already.
- () Have your student APPLY!
- () Follow up. Make sure that your student's high school transcript, SAT or ACT test scores, letters of recommendation and other supplemental materials are sent to colleges.
- () Check your email regularly- this will be the main way colleges contact you!



Notes:

