



**GET  
READY**

## Preparing for College and Post-Secondary Success !

It's never too  
early to start  
thinking about  
the future

**If your student is in or entering middle school, now is the time to begin  
thinking about the future.**

The future means different things to different people. For some students, it may mean going to high school and then college. For others it may mean going to a post-secondary institution to learn to become a welder, electrician or other specialty trade, or completing certifications to obtain jobs that offer continuing growth. The list goes on, but whatever your student's dreams are, they are going to need your help as they prepare to thrive past high school.

We believe that every family can help lead their child successfully to and through a post-secondary education offering them a career path that will sustain them.



**These checklists are here to help you and your student start talking about life after high school, as well as the things that will affect their path to a successful career.**

**One of the most important conversations your student will have is with their school counselor. They can provide information about accelerated learning programs and getting college credit as a middle or high school student for FREE.**



**Now is the time to lay the groundwork for the road ahead:**

**EXCEL** - Help your student do their best ✓

- ( ) Make sure your student takes the right classes.
- ( ) Take the time to help your student develop a solid study routine and stick to it.
- ( ) Help your student get organized by using a planner or other online tools to help them stay on track.

**ENGAGE** Take the time to really talk to your student about important matters ✓

- ( ) Talk to our student about extra-curricular activities. Be a role model for them by volunteering in your community.
- ( ) Ask about and get to know your student's friends and their families.
- ( ) Discuss how to make good choices about appropriate safe behavior online and on the phone,
- ( ) Share your expectations with your children along with the risks of unsafe behaviors like drinking, doing drugs and having sex.

**EXPLORE** Discuss different career paths and what it may take to get there from here ✓

- ( ) Get information about getting into high school Choice Programs.
- ( ) Find out about scholarships and ways to pay for college.
- ( ) Have your student take the PSAT, SAT and ACT as well as career assessments.
- ( ) Talk about different colleges and career paths.

**College is  
AFFORDABLE!**

We hope you find these useful and a good place to start your student thinking about their future.



**Achieve Palm Beach County** ★ Ensuring College Access and Success

Adapted from "Oregon Goes To College"