

Achieve a College-Educated Future

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STUDENTS (EVERY YEAR): Go to school every day and work hard to get excellent grades ✧ Take challenging math, English, science, and social studies classes ✧ During the summer, get a job or enroll in a program that interests you ✧ Set aside “college time” every week – use this time to learn about colleges, study for the SAT or ACT, and/or to work on applications. Don’t wait until the last minute!

- * Join school activities
- * Check out the career chart. What interests you?
- * During summer, get a job, volunteer, or enroll in a summer learning program
- * Learn about what to do in high school to be ready for college at: collegeboard.com/student
- * Find a friend who also plans to go to college. Make sure you both: work hard in school and meet application & test registration deadlines
- * Spend 1 hour/week preparing for the ACT or SAT test—you need to take one next spring. For study help, go to sat.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org
- * Use the College Board’s College Matchmaker to start a list of your college options
- * Keep working hard in school!
- * Prepare 3 hrs./week for the SAT or ACT. Review math concepts and vocabulary words & take practice tests and questions
- * In January, register for the SAT or ACT
- * In spring, take the SAT or ACT
- * Learn what goes into your college application at www.commonapp.org
- * Visit colleges you are interested in
- * During summer, prepare to take the SAT or ACT one more time (in October) if you want to improve your score
- * Decide on at least 5 colleges to apply to. Discuss your choices with your guidance counselor, teacher, and family
- * Start your college applications in September
 - ⇒ You will need recommendation letters from 2 teachers, school transcripts, and SAT/ACT score reports from the test websites
 - ⇒ You will need to write an essay and a resume
- * Complete and submit your college applications—be sure to make the deadlines!
- * Completing college applications can be challenging! For help, visit www.collegeboard.com/student/apply
- * With an adult, complete and submit financial aid forms

THINGS FOR STUDENTS TO DO EACH YEAR

Freshman Year

Sophomore Year

Junior Year

Senior Year

THINGS FOR PARENTS TO DO EACH YEAR

- * Make sure your teen takes challenging classes, works every day, and asks for help when needed
- * Discuss career options with your teen (see chart)
- * Open a college savings account
- * Create a college file for your teen’s records and accomplishments
- * Gather information about college from people you know
- * Ask your teen’s guidance counselor for information about standardized test & college application fee waivers. Learn more at: collegeboard.org/fwesp
- * If you haven’t already, open a college savings account
- * In the fall, request fee waiver applications from your teen’s school. Complete and submit them
- * In January, register your teen for the SAT or ACT on the test websites
- * Set up college visits for your teen by calling college admissions offices
- * Save your tax returns and W2 forms for financial aid applications
- * Learn about financial aid applications on FAFSA website: www.FAFSA.ed.org
- * Register your teen to retake the SAT or ACT if she plans to retake it
- * Complete the FAFSA financial aid application. The sooner you apply, the better!
- * Help your teen decide on at least 5 colleges to apply to
- * Help your teen fill out college applications
- * Make sure your teen submits applications before deadlines
- * As always, make sure your teen takes challenging classes, works every day, and asks for help when needed

PARENTS (EVERY YEAR): Update your college file. Include: report cards, awards, volunteer work, & job information ✧ Tell everyone about your teen’s plans so they can support the goal! ✧ Discuss your teen’s achievement and upcoming classes with a school counselor or teacher ✧ Register for free or reduced-price lunch so that you qualify for application fee waivers ✧ Contribute to a college savings account ✧ Make a chart listing the admission and financial aid requirements and deadlines of colleges that interest your teen — then, meet all deadlines!