

Preparing Your Student for Success After High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Use information from standardized tests to guide course choices.
- Encourage your student to take challenging classes.
- Create a quiet environment for study with some privacy, a desk and good lighting.
- Encourage your student to develop strong study habits.
- Think about which high school course will best prepare your student for post-secondary education.
- Start saving for postsecondary education, if you haven't already.

HIGH SCHOOL:

9th and 10th Grades

- Encourage your student to focus on strong study habits, getting good grades, participating in extracurricular activities.
- Use information from the ACT Explore and ACT Plan to check strengths and weaknesses, as well as career interests.
- Help your student to investigate career possibilities. Compare interests and abilities with specific career requirements.
- Work with your student to make a list of 2- and 4-year colleges that he or she would like to attend and inquire about entrance requirements, or find out about military or apprenticeship opportunities by contacting the WV Area Training Representative for Bureau of Apprenticeship Training.
- Plan the high school courses that will best prepare for the opportunities after high school.
- Request information on scholarships and financial aid from post-secondary institutions.
- Continue saving for postsecondary education.

11th Grade

Encourage your student to continue to focus on getting good grades, practicing good study habits and participating in extracurricular activities. In addition, make sure that your student:

- Starts contacting 2- and 4-year colleges for applications and information on scholarships, financial aid opportunities, or talks to military recruiters or people involved.
- Find out which tests each college requires for admission.
- Registers to take the **PSAT, ACT, SAT**
- Finds out about his or her eligibility to receive any scholarships.

12th Grade

Your student should continue to focus on getting good grades, practicing good study habits and enjoying extracurricular activities. In addition, in the beginning of the school year suggest that your student:

- Speaks with his or her guidance counselor to discuss 2- and 4-year college applications and expectations and military options.
- Registers for the ACT and/or SAT
- Fills out college admission applications
- Starts looking for teachers to write recommendations
- Mails college applications (check the due date for each college)
- Sends his or her transcript to the appropriate college
- Obtains financial aid information from the guidance counselor

During the second half of your child's senior year in high school:

- Keep track of all applications; make sure that all colleges received requested information
- Decide which college your student wants to attend
- Send in tuition and/or room deposit
- If you are applying for federal aid, applications must be submitted before the March 1st. deadline.