Things You Need To Know

1. During high school students need to take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, 3 years of social studies, 3 years of math and 3 years of science and many require 2 years of a foreign language.

2. Students should stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest them and help them explore career interests.

3. Talk to the school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Counselors can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign up for standardized tests and where to get money for college.

“Parents who take an active part in their teens’ preparation for college ... have teens who are motivated to do well in school and thus have few incidents of attendance and disciplinary problems during their senior year.”

Research by Belkis Suazo de Castro, senior research associate at the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University and Sophia Catsambis, a sociology professor at City University of New York.

Money for College

The U.S. Department of Education is the main source of financial aid for college, but it isn’t the only source. Other web sites also provide valuable information.

• www.students.gov
• www.ed.gov/Programs/bastmp/SHEA.htm
• Visit the college’s Web site or call to talk with someone from their Financial Aid department.
• Scholarships: FREE online scholarship search. www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/scholarship

www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-730-8913)

www.fafsa.ed.gov
CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES

KnowHow2GO.org
This web site provides middle schoolers to adults extensive information on the value of continuing education after high school, how to prepare for college, the myths and realities about college and the availability of financial aid for college.

The first step to finding the right program and type of school for you is to evaluate your interests. A self-assessment will help you examine your interests and goals, and offers ideas on fields of study and careers that might be right for you.

Career Voyages  www.careervoyages.gov
Find occupations that are in demand in high growth industries. This Web site provides information regarding the skills and education required for these occupations, and helps you find education and other opportunities to advance in a career path toward a brighter future. The Web site is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

Career One Stop  www.careeronestop.org

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

If you want to be considered for aid from your state or college, you must meet its FAFSA deadline. If you plan to go to college in the fall, you state financial aid deadline is probably going to be between March and May; and your college financial aid deadline could be as early as February. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for important deadlines. For a particular college’s FAFSA deadline, check the school’s web site or contact its financial aid office.

THE ACT

The ACT test allows students to get into most colleges. Some scholarships are based on good ACT scores. This test is very important.

The ACT’s PLAN and EXPLORE tests are given in the 9th and 10th grades, and the ACT itself is given in the 11th grade.

You or your child can go to your counselor to get sample tests and information about ACT workshops. You can also find ACT information at www.ACTstudent.org. Your child can take the ACT more than once. The ACT is recommended to be

DEFINITIONS

ACT: A college entrance test that measures skills in English, math, reading and science.

Class rank: Class rank is determined by GPA. Class rank shows where a student stands academically in relation to other members of his/her graduating class. The student with the highest GPA is ranked number one in the class. Class rank is one factor for getting into some colleges.

College Recommended courses: Four-year colleges recommend that students take certain courses while in high school. These generally include 4 years of English, 3 years of math, 3 years of science, 2-3 years of the same foreign language, 3 years of social studies and 1 year of fine arts. Specific schools have special requirements.

FAFSA: Stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, it is the qualifying form for all federal student financial aid. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The GPA is the average of all the grades recorded on a high school transcript. GPA is cumulative—that means the GPA includes the average of all the grades earned from the beginning of the freshman year through the end of the senior year. GPA can be important when getting into college.

Transcript: Transcripts are the permanent record of your child’s academic achievements in high school. Each semester’s classes and grades are recorded on their transcript.

High school transcripts are important because they are needed when your child applies for college, for scholarships, to enlist in the military, and often when they apply for a job. Transcripts are kept permanently on the district’s database.

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