

SP³ - Student Planning Pointers for Parents



Conversation Starters

Prepare Now for Education and Training After High School – 10th Grade

You know your student the best, so the following talking points are simply a guideline to use in starting a conversation with your 10th grader about preparing now for education and training after high school.

- ▶ Certain classes must be taken in high school for you to be accepted into a four-year college. Some courses may not be required for high school graduation but are recommended if pursuing a college degree.
 - Four years of English/language arts
 - Coursework should emphasize communication skills in writing, reading and listening, along with the analysis and interpretation of literature. Journalism and media literacy courses also offer value.
 - Four years of a single foreign language
 - Taking four years of foreign language enhances basic skills and reinforces fluency. Four years is recommended for college-level academics, but many colleges will accept two years for admission and graduation requirements.
 - Four years of math
 - Students should take one math course each year of high school with algebra, geometry and Algebra II being essential.
 - Four years of science
 - One science course each year of high school is recommended, with biology, chemistry and physics providing good preparation for college academics.
 - Three to four years of social studies.
 - Three years is essential, but four is beneficial. One year each of U.S. and world history is recommended.
 - Electives
 - Computer, technology and arts courses provide a well-rounded high school experience while offering career exploration possibilities.
- ▶ Be sure to meet regularly with your school counselor to plan your future classes. Taking these in high school eliminates having to do so in college, which possibly extends your attendance and increases your costs.
- ▶ Even if college isn't your chosen pathway, understand that whatever career you choose will require competent math and English skills.



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