A Parent's Role in College Preparation
A Parent’s Role

“Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person’s character lies in their own hands.”
A Parent’s Role

- Nothing helps a child succeed like an involved parent.

- Consistent support is crucial to sustaining a student’s confidence and sense of achievement.
They Learn from You!
The Four Roles of Parents in Education
The Teacher

- Children still need **personal attention**, and it's the role of the parent to make sure they get it.

- Stay in touch with your child's assignments

- Be available and enthusiastic

- Connect with their teachers regularly to keep up with how things are going in the classroom.

- **Tutoring** your own children *can be rewarding for both of you.*
The Teacher

• Talk about how **valuable education** is and how it can benefit your child's future.

• When your son/daughter’s grades look bad, take the time to **discuss** why they were bad.

• When your child succeeds make sure they are **acknowledged**
  – Have a reward system
  – Words of praise
The Teacher

- **Set a good example** for your children.

- **Start a project** of personal study, complete with writing projects and reading assignments, so you can participate in study time along with your children.

- Let your kids **see that you are serious about learning new things**.
The Teacher

“Set Realistic Goals”

• Academic progress is a slow but steady process.

• Help your child understand what they're trying to accomplish and that there are no shortcuts.

• Improving their grades is a goal worth reaching, not a punishment.

• Allow your child to suggest solutions to the problem.

• This will empower them and give them a say in their educational destiny.
The Teacher

“Know when to ask for help.”

- Some children just don't respond well when mom and dad try to help with school.
- **Know** when to turn to a tutor
- For children who suffer from learning disabilities, **consider seeking professional help.**
- A **counselor** should be able to identify problems and **give suggestions** on how to help a child learn at full potential.
The Enforcer

“A place of their own.”

• Set up a study space for your child.

• Make it a permanent area where they can leave their books and papers when they aren't using them.

• Give them a desk and a chair, with adequate lighting.

• Make sure they have everything they need to study efficiently and comfortably; separate from distractions like games, music and other hobbies not related to studying.

• A child who learns to organize their space will carry organization into every aspect of their life.
The Enforcer
“Consistency is key.”

• Sometimes you have to be **tough**.

• **Set and keep schedules** for your child.

• Sometimes you'll have to be strict, but a little **firmness each day will teach** your child **vital time management skills**.

• Be willing to be the bad guy, but **don't make school** or **homework** seem like **a punishment**.
The Enforcer

“Turn off the TV!/ Get off electronics”

- The television and electronics are a HUGE distraction.
- No matter what channel is on or electronics they are on, it will grab your child's attention, even just hearing the TV or knowing others are watching can distract them.
- Make it a house rule that the TV is off during study time.
  - That goes for mom and dad, too. No exceptions!
The Enforcer

“Time is of the essence.”

- Show your child how to use a planner.
- Walk them through the process every day until they're doing it on their own and then check in a couple of times a week.
- Maintaining direct involvement in your child's education is crucial to his academic success.
- Create a home environment where good study habits are primary and appreciated.
The Mentor

• Learning about math and reading isn't the only struggle your child faces in school.

• They need someone who is willing to hear what they're thinking--and that someone should be you.

• Listening respectfully to your child's concerns can be a major confidence booster.
The Mentor

• Learning about math and reading isn't the only struggle your child faces in school.
• They need someone who is willing to hear what they're thinking--and that someone should be you!
• Listening respectfully to what your child has to say.
• If you take your child seriously they’re more likely to do the same for their education.
The Mentor

• Be available for your child.

• Remember that learning is about encountering what you don't know. That can be scary!

• Be patient and responsive in helping your child master new skills.

• Your child will be receptive to learning quickly if they can count on you to help no matter what the problem.
The Mentor

“Make learning fun!”

• Your child might be bored.
• Turn homework and study into a game.
• Make some flash cards or purchase age appropriate educational games.
• Get everyone in the family involved.
The Supporter

- It's just as important to support a child who doesn't perform well as it is to congratulate them for success.
- Real learning is based on the value your child places on the process itself.
- Ask your child what they do when they fail at something they're good at.
- Communicate with their teacher!
The Supporter

• “Give your child his/her say.”

• Be sure to ask your child how she thinks she is doing in school.

• Find out what she thinks of her teacher, what she likes and doesn't like.

• You need to be impartial and understand that although the teacher is in charge, your child may have legitimate difficulties dealing with him.

• If possible, arrange to meet with your child and the teacher together.
The Supporter

“Communicate with their teacher.”

• Having his/her perspective on your child's learning process is a vital tool

• Get in touch with the teacher during within the first two weeks of school.

• Learn about the homework policy, study expectations and any opportunities for how you might become involved in the life of the classroom.

• Be sure the teacher knows the best way to reach you and how you can most easily contact him.

• Use a notebook/diary, carried to and from school by your child, to communicate with his teachers.
The Road to Success
Why College?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Median Usual Weekly Earnings</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>$1,623</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$1,730</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>$1,341</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$1,137</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>$798</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>$738</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>$678</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>$493</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workers: $860

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Middle School
Middle School

Learn the Language
- High School Credits
- GPA
- Diploma Plans

Know your child’s learning style
- [http://cafecollege.org/userfiles/files/WHAT_IS_YOUR_LEARNING_STYLE.pdf](http://cafecollege.org/userfiles/files/WHAT_IS_YOUR_LEARNING_STYLE.pdf)

Find the Money!
- FAFSA - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- TASFA - [www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)
- FAFSA4Caster

Help your Child Discover Careers
- [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)
High School
Freshman Year (9th)

- Visit college campuses with your student
- Make a Diploma Plan with their Counselor
- Get to know the teachers
- Have your student schedule to take tough classes like:
  - Honors/AP classes
  - Algebra
  - Foreign Languages
- Encourage your student to enroll in academic enrichment programs like PREP, AVID, Pentathlon or Decathlon
- Encourage your student to also pursue extracurricular such as volunteering, sports, or school clubs
Freshman Year (9th)

• Keep a folder of accomplishments for your student that includes:
  • Awards
  • Certificates
  • Community Service Log
  • Job shadowing and internships

• Take the Learning Style Quiz
  • [http://www.cafecollege.org/cafecolleges-learning-style-quiz](http://www.cafecollege.org/cafecolleges-learning-style-quiz)

• Take a Reality Check
  • [http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/realitycheck/](http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/realitycheck/)
  • [https://www.raise.me/](https://www.raise.me/)
Sophomore Year (10th)

- Research Universities and their admission requirements with your student
- Get to know your student’s teachers
- Have your student prepare for the PSAT in the Fall and register to take it in the Spring
- Help your student keep a schedule or agenda of deadlines
- Help your student investigate Job Shadowing
- Help your student search for Internships
You have 3,762 college options. Choose a category on the left to find the right ones for you. We’ll help along the way.
What do you want to do for a living?

“I want to be a …”

Search careers with key words.
Describe your dream career in a few words:
Examples: doctor, build houses

“‘I’ll know it when I see it.’

Browse careers by industry.
There are over 900 career options for you to look at. Find yours in one of these industries:
Administration & Support Services

“I’m not really sure.”

Tell us what you like to do.
Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We’ll suggest careers that match your interests and training.

Still not sure? Check out careers in these groups:

Are you a veteran looking for work?
My Next Move for Veterans helps you find a civilian career similar to your military job.

¿Habla español?
Mi Próximo Paso incluye tareas, aptitudes, información sobre salarios y más de 900 carreras diferentes.
Junior Year (11th) - Fall

• Have your student take AP or Dual Credit courses (they can count towards college credit)

• Help your student create a Resume

• Help your student get a professional e-mail address
  • firstname.lastname@emailaddress.com

• Help your student make a list of potential Colleges

• Help your student search and apply for scholarships early
Junior Year (11\textsuperscript{th}) - Spring

• Has your student studied for ACT, and/or SAT?
  • [www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html](http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html)
  • [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)
  • Make sure they arrive ON TIME
  • Find out what they need to take on testing day

• Help your student start finalizing the College List

• Investigate college costs

• Learn ways to pay for college
Junior Year (11th) - Summer

- Make sure your student is applying for Scholarships
- Help your student start working on the College Application Essay
- Help your student finalize the College List by also reviewing BigFuture Collegeboard Search.
Senior Year (12th) - Fall

• Apply for the colleges
• Make sure they’re on track to graduate!
• Keep a calendar
  • College application deadlines
  • Scholarship deadlines
• Make sure they take their SAT/ACT if they haven’t done so. Students may also retake the exam if they feel they can do better.
  • FREE SAT/ACT Prep Workshops are available at cafécollege
• Letters of Recommendation
  • Should be asked for way before the deadline (at least 1 month)
  • Usually recommenders ask for a resume
  • Attend college & financial aid nights at your school
• All of this should be done by DECEMBER.
Senior Year (12th) - Spring

• Keep the Calendar updated

• Apply for Financial Aid
  • [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  • Remember you’ll need the Income Tax Return TWO Years back
  • If student is going to start college in Fall 2019 to college, they need the Income Tax Return from the year 2017 and the W-2 documents.
  • The FAFSA will open Oct. 1st of their Senior Year

• Make sure they study if they’re taking AP exams or Dual Credit classes

• All of this should be done by MARCH
After Graduation!

• Congratulations Parents!

• Follow-up on college acceptances

• Follow-up on Financial Aid
  • See the Award Letter from each school

• Decide as a family which University is best…
  • Weigh-in all the factors
  • Pros/Cons
  • Account for inflation
The empty nest…

• You’ve waited almost 18 years for this day…
• Make sure to keep in contact with your student
• Visits
  • Don’t overdo it…
  • Maybe twice a month for the first year
  • Once a month afterwards
• Take advantage of technology
  • Chats
  • E-mails
  • Text messages
  • Video calls
Paying for College

Very few families can afford to pay for college without help, here are some ways that students and family can supplement that cost

- **Scholarships** *(Outside Organizations & Institutional/College)*
  - Money you DON’T have to pay back
  - Based on a set criteria, financial need, or both

- **Grants** *(Federal & State)*
  - Money you DON’T have to pay back, i.e. Pell Grant, Texas Grants
  - Based on financial need

- **Loans** *(Federal or Private)*
  - Money you DO have to pay back
  - Based on financial need
  - Student and Parent Loan options available
  - Federal Loan Options: Subsidized Student and Unsubsidized Student (current interest rate at 3.76%), Parent PLUS Loan (current interest rate of 6.31%)

- **Work Study**
  - Part-time job on campus, maximum 20 hours/week
  - Based on financial need and availability at school
Questions?
References

