

PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE

The checklist for adults who are helping students get to college

**GRADES
6-10**

You may be thinking about how early this seems in a young person's life, but it truly is an important time for your student as they are laying the foundation in a lot of subjects, forming study habits, and developing their personality and character. Improving and developing certain skills now, will make it easier for your student to adjust to the challenges of high school and eventually college. Here are some things you can do together to make the most of this time.

STEPS

1

Be involved and interested. Showing your student that you believe in them and their capabilities gives them self-confidence. Ask them questions or have discussions about what's happening in the community, their interests, and ideas.

2

Help your child set goals for the year. Working toward specific goals will help your child stay motivated and focused. (Ex. Help them improve writing skills through a daily or weekly journal. Provide a positive incentive by taking them to do something fun at the end of the year)

3

Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your student's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and tackle problems as a team.

4

Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your student to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Encourage them to learn a musical instrument, play an athletic sport, participate in the school musical, or volunteer their time.

5

Discuss ways to take on challenges. Encourage your student to take a more challenging course instead of the easier option. Tackling tough courses can give your child confidence and prepare him or her for higher-level classes in high school and college.

6

Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your student's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

7

Visit a nearby college together. If you live near a college, look for upcoming events on campus that are open to the community or see if the college offers classes to local students and families. Just being on a campus may get your child interested in college and help them to become more comfortable with the idea.

8

Get the big picture on paying for college. It's not too early to learn the basics of financial aid. The goal is to determine how your student can earn a degree with the least amount of debt. *TIP: Reach out to college financial aid offices, or speak to the school counselors in your district.