April FOR FAMILIES OF 8th GRADE STUDENTS

Staying On-Track
High school is fast approaching. Some things to consider are that teenagers tend to live in the moment. Often cause and effect is a hard concept for students to grasp when it relates to high school graduation and college admissions requirements that are still years away. It is important talk to teens about how attendance, challenges, failures, grades, and overall credit accumulation in high school will affect their future.

Did you know that there are ways to tell if a child is “on-track” or “off-track” for high school graduation? Research has shown that there some ways to predict when a student is struggling or off-track. For example:

- **Attendance:** Missing 20 days or being absent 10 percent of school days.
- **Behavior:** Two or more mild or more serious behavior infractions.
- **Course performance in high school:**
  - a GPA of less than 2.0.
  - two or more failures in ninth grade courses.
  - failure to earn on-time promotion to the tenth grade or accumulate 5 or more freshmen credits.

Even if there are valid excuses for any of these symptoms, they have a negative effect on school performance and engagement and increase the chances that a student will dropout.

If your child is showing one or more of these signs it is important to step in, find the root causes of the problem, and find a solution that addresses the specific needs of your child. For example, you may need to help your child find tutoring or a mentor. School and district staff should be able to help. The most powerful thing a parent or guardian can do to help is get involved.

Sources: [Career Guidance WA](#) and [OSPI GATE](#)

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**Did You Know?**

Over the next 10 years, there will be **1.4 million** new jobs available in computer science, but only about **400,000 college grads** qualified for those jobs.

Source: [Code.org](#)
Myth Buster

MYTH: Bullying isn’t serious. It’s just a matter of “kids being kids.”

REALITY: Bullying can be extremely serious. Students who are bullied are more likely to experience:

- Depression and anxiety, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy.
- Health complaints
- Decreased academic achievement and school participation.

Students who are being bullied also are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.

Source: Stopbullying.gov

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- Career Guidance WA
- OSPI GATE: Student Reengagement or How do I get back in school?
- www.Code.org : Stats
  - https://code.org/stats
- Stopbulling.gov
  - www.stopbullying.gov
- APStudent: Work Toward College Success
  - https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/the-rewards

Student Checklist

Talk with your parents, guardians or friends about taking challenging classes in subjects in which you are interested.

Schedule a meeting to talk with your counselor or teacher about what classes are right for you.

Take a trip over to the high school to take a tour of the campus.

Family Checklist

Encourage your teen to think about taking challenging classes in high school. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what is going on in school.

Talk to teachers and staff. Talk to your child’s counselor about high school class selections. Make sure he or she is on track to progress from middle school to high school on time.

Help your child create a plan for the appropriate classes that he or she needs to take each year in high school in order to pursue his or her dreams after high school.

Tour the high school with your child.

Source: APStudent

Visit readysetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.