Congratulations!
Graduating from high school is a really big deal. Your teen worked hard, studied hard, and made the cut.

Top Tips for Your Child
- **If your school sends you a mailing or an email, READ IT!** They won’t send you information you don’t need. Don’t risk missing out on important deadlines, paperwork, or details because you didn’t read your mail.

- **Use your voice! Don’t be afraid to advocate for yourself.** If you need help, ask for it. If you don’t understand something, speak up. You will need to be your own advocate, so speak up for yourself.

- **Ask as many questions as you need to until you get answers.** This goes for classes, financial aid information, banks, and just about anything else.

- **Everyone else feels just like you.** Confused? Homesick? Worried? Chances are most of the other new students at your school feel the same way. Reach out to others through clubs, dorm socials, or other organized activities. Before school starts, check out a social networking site and see if your college or school has a page for students. It can be a great way to connect to others who will also be attending before the year even begins!

**Did You Know?**
Over the summer, your teen is likely to receive an estimated statement of charges (tuition, room and board, etc.). Don’t panic. In the fall, the college or university will apply all of a student’s financial aid (grants, scholarships, loans) to this bill. Whatever amount is left is likely what is due. Most colleges and universities have payment plans that can help spread any remaining cost after financial aid out over time. Contact the school to make a plan for payment; they will work with you.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** If students are having a hard time with college, they don’t belong there.

**REALITY:** Everyone experiences difficulties. The first year in school can be very challenging. The key is to find support, ask for help, and advocate for their needs.

If students are having a rough time emotionally, they should look into speaking with a mental health counselor at their college. These counselors can help if students feel lonely, depressed, or have other personal issues. Most colleges offer free counseling sessions through the on-campus health center.

If students are having problems with their classes, they should find out if their school has a tutoring center or writing center (and for students who qualify, disability services, too). Remind your child:

- It is important to ask for help.
- In college, you must advocate for yourself.
- Everyone faces challenges.
- It will get easier if you persist and get the support you need.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- **Family Event:**

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**Student Checklist**

- Prepare a budget for next year. If you haven’t done this before, now is a good time to learn how to manage your own expenses and bills.
- GRADUATION! Hold your head high and celebrate your achievement. However, if you didn’t earn your diploma, you may continue your high school education. And, you may still qualify for the College Bound Scholarship, even if you graduate at a later date. (This does NOT include GEDs.)
- Planning to live on campus? Time to start packing! Pay attention to the guidance your college provides about what to bring. Don’t waste money on items you won’t need or have space for.
- Attend Freshman/New Student Orientation to learn about academic and student services that will help you throughout your college career.

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**Family Checklist**

- Help your teen prepare a budget for next year.
- If your child is going to live on campus, pay attention to the guidance your college provides about what to bring.
- Be sure your teen attends Freshman/New Student Orientation. Encourage your child to participate in a “First Year Experience” program if one is available, too. If parents are invited, you should also attend.
- Encourage your child to find out what resources the college offers to help students transition to college and get personal, health, financial, and academic support. For example, does the school have a TRiO SSS program?

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Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.