Why Go To College
Options! There are many options for students after high school. College includes apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, four-year degrees, and more.

New experiences, people & places! Whether your teen goes to a community college near your hometown, a state school a few hours away, or a private school in another state, he or she will have the opportunity to meet people and make friends from different places. In college, students have the chance to take classes in subjects that interests them and even study abroad in another country if they want.

Money. Education pays! College graduates earn 60 percent more than a high school graduate, and those with advanced degrees earn two to three times as much as high school graduates. The jobs that require a college degree are more likely to have benefits and retirement plans, as well.

Independence. In college, students have control over the classes they want to take and how they spend their time. Your child might live at home, move into a college residence hall or dorm, or an apartment or house with friends.

Discover passions. Students can get involved on campus with student clubs, athletics, and community service. There are also hundreds or even thousands of courses to choose from at college.

Job security & satisfaction. Individuals with college degrees are more likely to have and keep their jobs, with lower unemployment rates than those with only a high school degree. In addition, having a college degree gives individuals more jobs to choose from and the opportunity to choose a career that is interesting and meaningful.

Did You Know?
A college education is worth more today. There’s a wider earnings gap between college-educated and less-educated Millennials compared with previous generations.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** College is only for the “smartest” students.

**REALITY:** There are many different colleges and postsecondary programs like available.

Some colleges require specific classes or high grades to be accepted, while others have no requirements beyond graduating from high school.

College is an option for everyone - but the more challenging classes and the better grades your child gets, the more options she or he will have, in addition to greater access to scholarships.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- National GEAR UP Week:
- Student Orientation:
- Family Orientation:
- Family Event:
- GEAR UP Awards:

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**Student Checklist**

- Update your [High School and Beyond Plan](#).
- Enroll in and pass a foreign language class.
- Enroll in and pass Algebra I.
- Ask your guidance counselor or teachers what [Advanced Placement](#) courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.

**Family Checklist**

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most appropriate classes. Learn more about [the high school counselor’s role](#).
- Make sure your teen is taking challenging classes like a foreign language and algebra.
- Help your child set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.

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