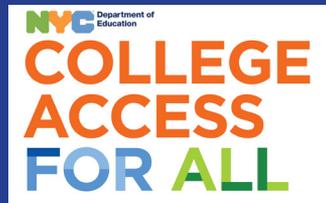


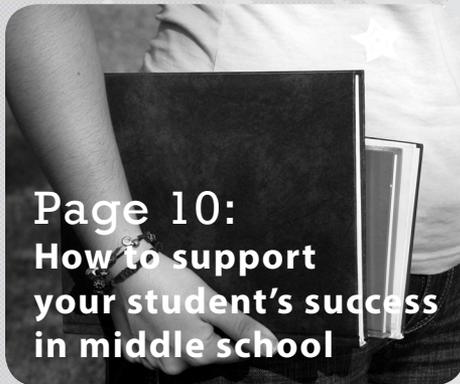
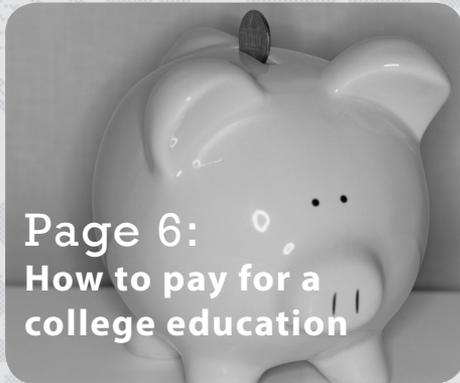
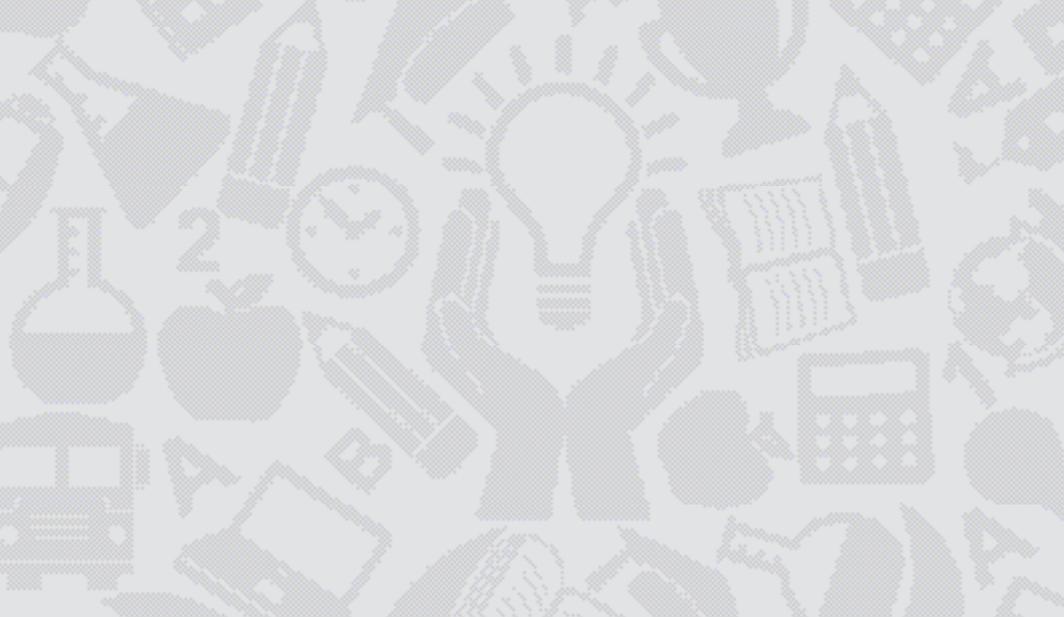


GET READY!

An Early College Readiness Guide for Families



This guide was adapted with permission from Oregon GEARUP



THE

future

STARTS NOW

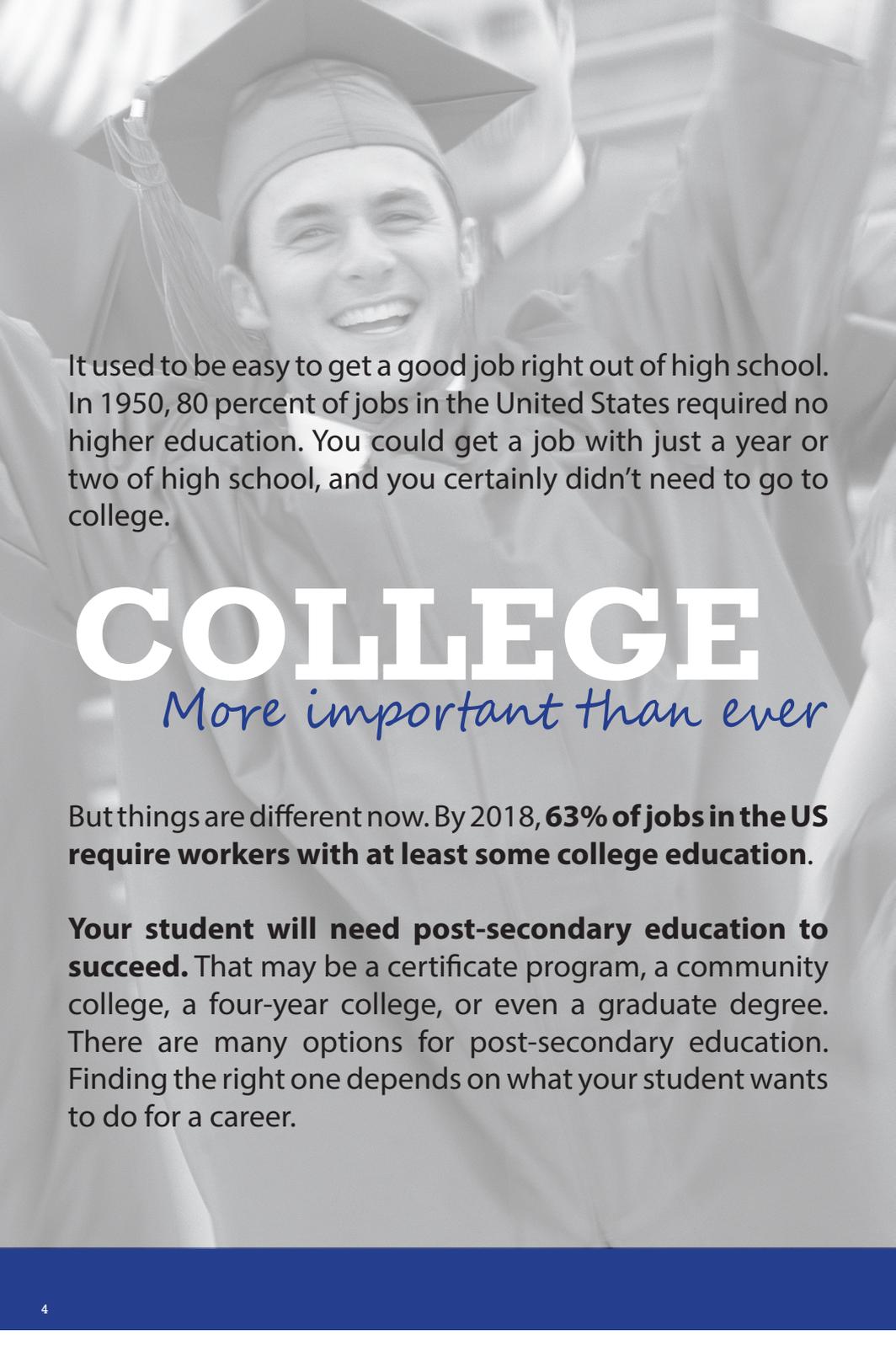
The choices and attitudes your student develops now will help pave the way for success in high school, college, and career. This booklet will help you and your student make the most of middle school and be prepared for the future.



ABOUT COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL: MIDDLE SCHOOL

The recently announced College Access for All: Middle School Initiative hopes to create and expand college-going cultures within our middle schools. The Initiative will give the opportunity for every middle school student to visit a college campus at least once in grades 6-8 as well as provide families with valuable information about how to support their student on their path to college.

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It used to be easy to get a good job right out of high school. In 1950, 80 percent of jobs in the United States required no higher education. You could get a job with just a year or two of high school, and you certainly didn't need to go to college.

COLLEGE

More important than ever

But things are different now. By 2018, **63% of jobs in the US require workers with at least some college education.**

Your student will need post-secondary education to succeed. That may be a certificate program, a community college, a four-year college, or even a graduate degree. There are many options for post-secondary education. Finding the right one depends on what your student wants to do for a career.

THE *benefits* OF A COLLEGE DEGREE INCLUDE:



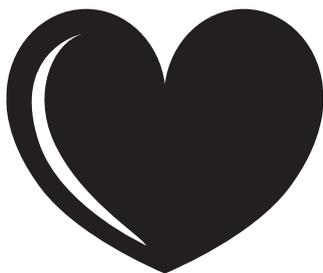
MORE MONEY

Graduates from 2 or 4 year colleges will make on average 20-60% more than someone with just a high school diploma.



MORE JOB SECURITY

People with college degrees have lower-than-average unemployment rates.



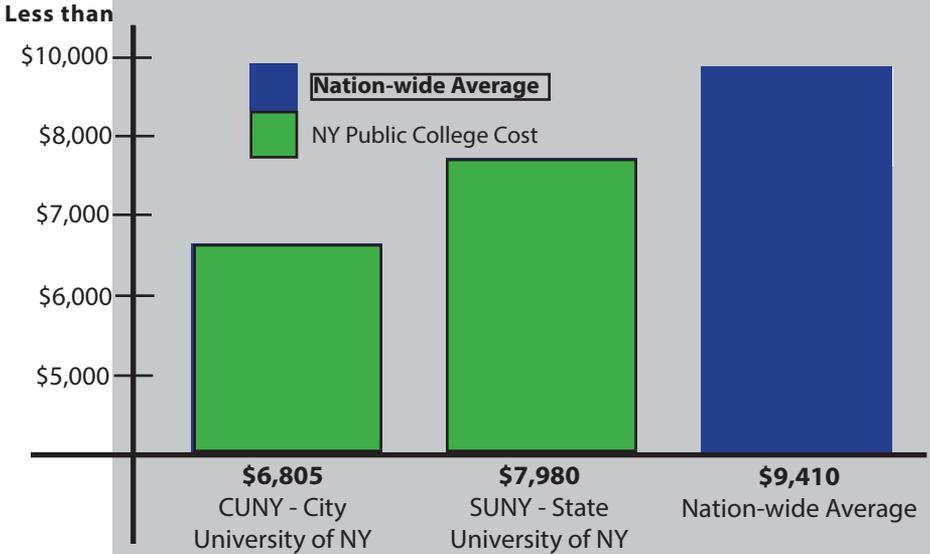
DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

Education after high school allows students to explore their interests, find their passion, and have more job opportunities.

THE COST OF COLLEGE

includes tuition and fees

AVERAGE YEARLY COST FOR NY PUBLIC COLLEGE



Source: CUNY, Tuition and Fees - cuny.edu/financialaid

**DON'T
PAY FULL
PRICE!**

Your student is eligible for some form of financial aid to help pay for college tuition, fees, and living expenses. In fact, **8 out of 10 CUNY students graduate debt-free!** At 4-year universities, most students only pay about 60% of the cost, with private, non-profit schools often able to give the biggest discounts.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid helps students and families pay for college. Students receive financial aid based on need (what the family can contribute to college costs) and merit (achievement in academics, sports, or other areas). Colleges may use a combination of both to help your student pay for higher education. The federal government alone gives out over \$150 billion in student aid for college.

LOANS Money for college that must be paid back; need-based.

GRANTS Money from the federal government or the college that does not need to be paid back; need-based.

WORK STUDY Part-time jobs, often on campus, to help pay for college costs; need-based.

SCHOLARSHIPS Given for good grades, community service, athletic ability, or other unique personal qualities; merit-based.

The more that you know about how to pay for college, and the more you save now, the less it can cost you in the future.

Who can you talk to?

- The high school's college counselor
- Local community organizations
 - Family and friends who have a child in college
 - Your bank

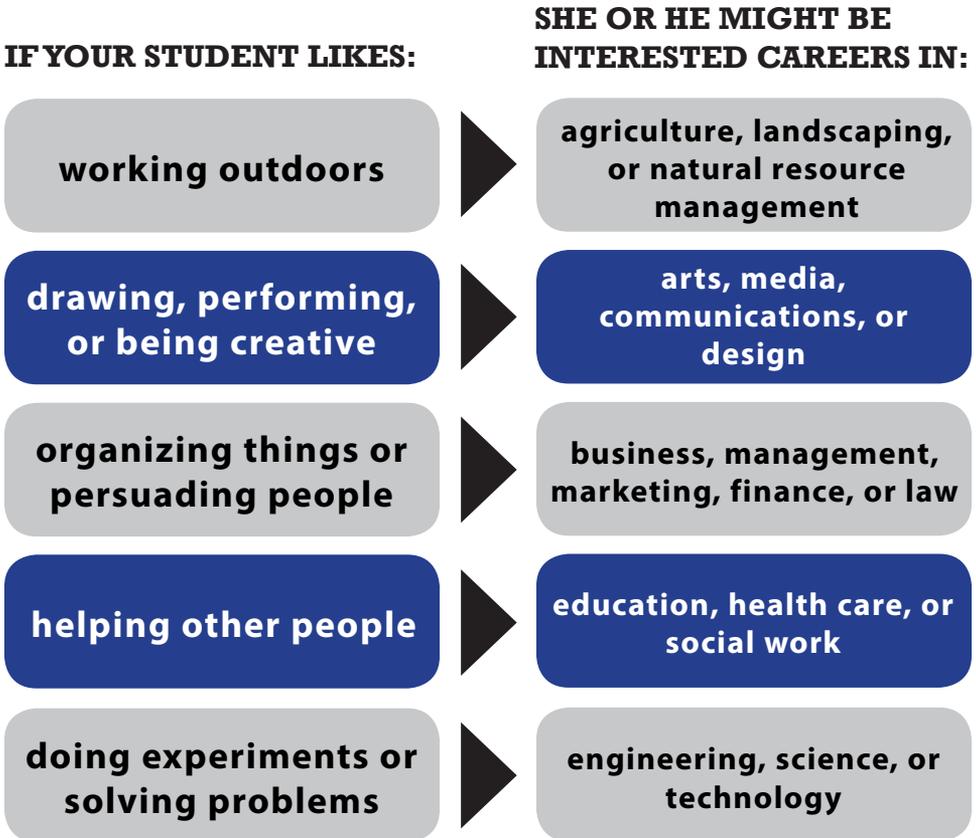
Some savings options to consider include:

- 529 College Savings Plan
- Individual Development Account
- Coverdell Education Savings Account
- Savings bonds



EXPLORING CAREERS

College and career might seem far away for a student in middle school, but it's important to start planning now. One good way to prepare is to help your student explore his or her interests and talents. Talk with your student about the things she or he likes to do and find out about jobs that seem interesting. Begin by going through the chart below with your student, then help him or her learn more about careers in these areas and the education they require. Find out if the school offers other ways to explore career interests, such as online career exploration programs, career days, or job shadow opportunities.



HOW MANY YEARS OF COLLEGE DOES IT TAKE?

1-2

Technical Program or
Associate's Degree



Administrative Assistant
Auto Mechanic
Bookkeeper
Computer Technician
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Graphic Designer
Hotel/Restaurant Manager
Registered Nurse

4

Bachelor's
Degree



Computer Systems Analyst
Dietician
Editor
Engineer
Fashion Designer
FBI Agent
Forensic Technician
Investment Banker
Journalist

More than

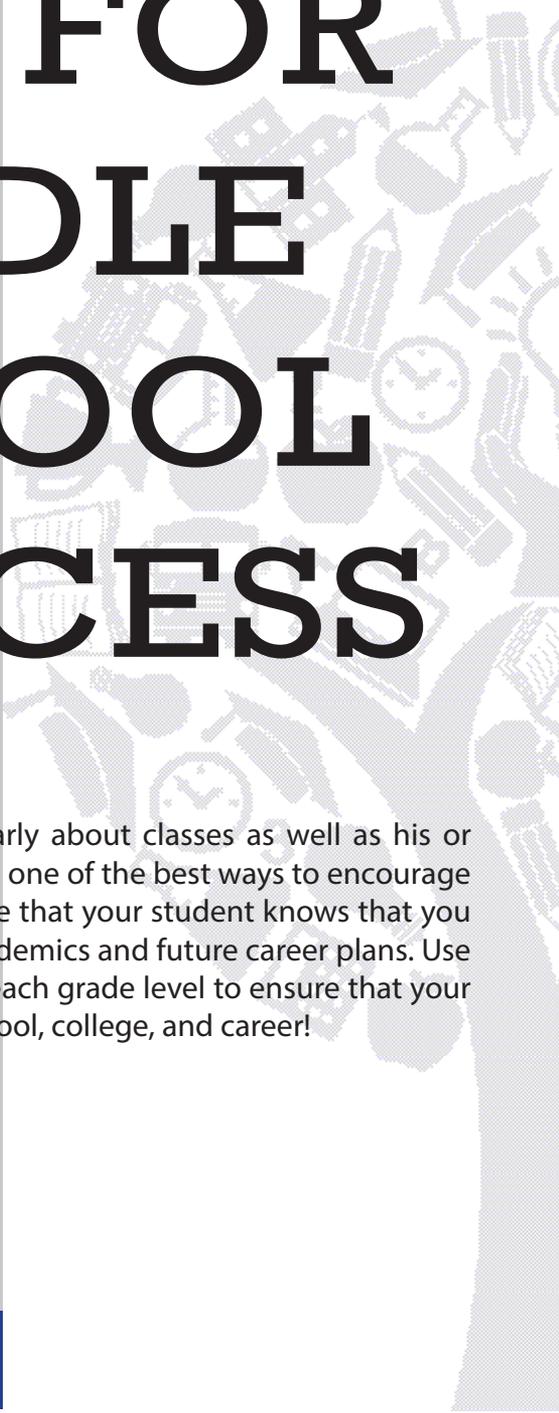
4

Graduate or
Professional Degree



Architect
Dentist
Doctor
Lawyer
Psychologist
Scientist
Social Worker
Teacher
Veterinarian

TIPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS



Talking to your student regularly about classes as well as his or her future hopes and dreams is one of the best ways to encourage college-going behavior. Be sure that your student knows that you have high expectations for academics and future career plans. Use the following suggestions for each grade level to ensure that your student is on track for high school, college, and career!

6TH GRADE

- Register for an **NYC Student Account** if you haven't already to check **your student's grades, attendance and test scores**. You can create this online or in person with your child's ID and school code.
- Ask school staff about tutoring and other services that might be available for help with challenging classes.
- Encourage your student to **get involved in an extracurricular activity** like music, sports, or student council. This is a great way to get to know teachers and other students.
- **Ask questions** about your student's classes, teachers, homework, and class assignments. Knowing that you care will help your student take school seriously.
- Encourage your student to **participate in classes and turn in assignments on time**. Establish a homework routine for your student to follow each day.
- Meet with a school counselor to talk about how your student can begin to **explore high school choices to get a head start on the High School Application process**.
- Explore if your student can sign up for **advanced classes** in math and language arts. Taking **challenging classes** like pre-algebra will prepare your student to succeed in high school and college.
- **Volunteer** at your school's college and career events! This will send a strong message to your student that you think school is important.

7TH GRADE

- **Begin to research about High School choices for your child's High School Application.** Learn about Specialized High Schools and if interested prepare student for their required test. Learn about requirements for various high schools including: testing, grades, auditions, and more.
- **Stay informed** about your student's classes, homework assignments, and grades. **YOUR CHILD'S 7TH GRADE GRADES ARE WHAT COUNTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL APPS!**
- Encourage your student to **stay active** in sports or other activities at school. Find out if there are volunteer projects your student can participate in, such as tutoring younger students.
- Maintain a **regular homework routine**, providing a dedicated time each day for your student to study.
- Find out what the school does to help 7th graders explore their **academic and career interests**. Talk with your student about possible career plans.
- See if your child can sign up for **advanced classes** in math and language arts. Also see if your student can register for electives such as foreign language or computers.
- Find out if the school will take any field trips to **college campuses** and encourage your student to attend. If possible, volunteer as a chaperone.

8TH GRADE

- **Be actively engaged in your student's High School (HS) application process.** This includes visiting HS, discussing options in HS directory, making sure to turn in all requirements for school on time.
- When exploring HS choices pay special attention to **graduation rates, college enrollment rates, available AP courses and enrichment opportunities** that interest your child. This info is found in the HS directory.
- If interested make sure to sign up for the **Specialized HS Exam** and prepare your child for test.
- Encourage your student to participate in **leadership opportunities** like student government and other activities.
- **Keep asking** your student questions about classes, teachers, and assignments. Check in with her/him frequently about homework and help make any adjustments necessary to meet increased 8th grade workloads.
- Find out if there is a **high school orientation** for students and family members.
- Find out if the high school your child will attend has a **college office** and will take any field trips to **college campuses** and encourage your student to attend.
- During 9th grade registration, see if your student can sign up for **honors or Advanced Placement (AP)** classes in math, language arts, science, and social studies.

WANT MORE INFO?

This booklet is just the first step in supporting your student during middle school with a goal of completing college ready for a career. Utilize the teachers and staff at your student's school, community banks and credit unions, university and community college staff, and these online resources to answer questions and learn more information about higher education and career options for your student.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

www.cuny.edu
www.suny.edu
bigfuture.collegeboard.org
knowhow2go.org
mappingyourfuture.org

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

studentaid.ed.gov
fastweb.com
bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college

EXPLORING CAREERS

parentfurther.com
mychildsfuture.org
learnhowtobecome.org
careeronestop.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

parentfurther.com
parenttoolkit.com
pta.org/parents

