

JANUARY

January is a great month for you to work with your student on planning for the rest of the semester. Make sure to review key events and important dates at the school and add dates to this semester's calendar. Check-in on how they're doing in school, things they want to sign up for in the semester, and plan any next steps if they're on a college pathway. As the new year begins, think about how you can save for supporting your student's educational future and set some goals for saving and funding a portion of their education after high school.

Goals



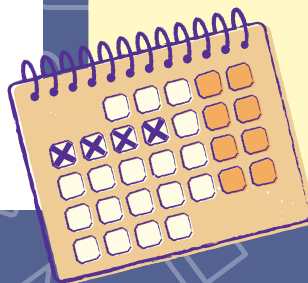
Use this space to write at least three goals for you and your student to work on together in the New Year.

REMINDER:

Schedule time with College Now this month to check in on your student's goals and progress.

ALL GRADES

- Help or support your student with sign up for winter and spring sports or clubs.



JUNIOR

- Help your student begin their ACT or SAT test preparation by joining a test-prep boot camp or help them get a test-prep book from the library.
- It's not too early to think about graduation requirements. As you finish this semester and sign up for courses your senior year, make sure you have planned to meet all your state graduation requirements.

SENIOR

- Check graduation requirements and make sure your student is on track to graduate.
- If your student needs additional credits to graduate, talk with the school counselor about what your student needs to do to take courses, make up credits, and graduate on time.
- Begin scholarship searching with your student if you haven't yet.
- If your student is taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams, help them get enough rest and study time before the exam.



FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Grants and Scholarships

Another way to fund your student's postsecondary education is through grants and scholarships.

Some universities give scholarships directly when a student applies for financial aid, while some opportunities require separate applications.

Grants and scholarships do not need to be paid back. These forms of financial aid are usually given based on need, but some are given based on merit, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, or the student's area of study. Many universities renew scholarships on an annual basis, but some scholarships may be awarded only once.

It's never too early to start searching for scholarships!

Here are some scholarship sites to get started in your search:

- www.collegenowgc.org/find-scholarships/
- www.scholarships.com/
- www.scholarshipowl.com/
- www.niche.com/
- www.unigo.com/
- www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx