

Parent/teacher conferences, often held in October, are critical for parents and caregivers to learn about and support their students. Make sure you look at your student's report cards, Grade Point Average (GPA), and any teacher comments. Be prepared to ask questions and ask for the support you and your student may need.

If you have a junior in school, it's time to start preparing for the ACT and SAT tests. A senior should be well into their post-high school planning for college and/or career/technical work. Support your student's organization and submission of materials by deadlines.

OCTOBER



MIDDLE SCHOOL

- If you're looking for a private or parochial high school for your student, October is a great time to take visits to various schools in the area. Deadlines for visiting schools and enrollment vary.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADES

- Attend parent/teacher conferences
- At this point, check in with your student, ask about their grades, and see what they may need to do to make up work or bring up their grade by the end of the semester.
 - For freshmen and sophomores, getting and maintaining a 2.5 or higher is critical at this point.
 - For juniors and seniors, getting a 3.0 or higher is critical for scholarships and financial aid.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Your school may offer the PSAT for sophomores this year. If it is optional, work with your student to take the PSAT as a practice if you think it will be helpful for learning how to take these tests. If the test is mandatory for your school, make sure your student rests and eats well before taking the test. Inquire about the test score and understand areas where your student may need some support to improve.
- If your student is an athlete, make sure to talk to the coach about college sports and balancing their sports training with academics.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Attend all college key events online or in person at your school. These may include junior nights, college nights, and understanding financial aid for post-secondary education.



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID CHECKLIST

Before filing the FAFSA, make sure you have the following information:

- Parent tax information
- Parent Social Security numbers
- Parent bank account and investment balances
- Family information on public benefits received
- Student birthdate
- Student Social Security number
- Student tax return from the previous year or wage information if they worked but didn't file taxes
- Student bank or investment balances
- Student driver's license
- List of schools the student wants to attend

For more details check out:

studentaid.gov/articles/things-you-need-for-fafsa/

SENIOR YEAR

- It's time to work on financial aid for college and technical schools! Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is important. You can find out more information at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid.
- Set up a time for you and your student to meet with a College Now Advisor for support on your FAFSA application.
- If your student has applied for Early Decision or Early Action, discuss the enrollment options with your student and ensure any decisions and paperwork are signed and submitted to the school. Many early decision deadlines are November 1, so make sure to learn all you can about your financial needs, enrollment, and services at each college or program with early decision.
- If you and your student are still exploring schools, taking time for a virtual tour, or attending autumn online events is a great way to get an understanding of the college or program.

Early Decision Early Decision (ED) plans are binding, meaning a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college if they are accepted.

Early Action Early Action (AC) plans are non-binding, allowing the student to receive an early response to their application but not requiring a commitment to the institution until May 1.