

Middle School Parent Guide to College & Career Readiness


Really? I need to think about life after high school while my child is in middle school?

Yes, you really do. Research shows that the progress a child makes towards college and career readiness by 8th grade is critical to their future success. In one study, only 2 of 10 eighth-graders were on track for successful college-level work by the time they graduate from eighth grade.*

Here are some career development and academic skills and knowledge that will help your child be ready for college and career.

*Adapted from:
Paving the Way for Success in High School and Beyond: The Importance of Preparing Middle School Students for the Transition to Ninth Grade; P/PV Groundwork; Grossman & Cooney*

*The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students are on Target for College and Career Readiness before High School; ACT 2008



I WILL be ready for
life after high
school!

Meeting grade-level standards in core classes. This is the biggest predictor of success in high school and post-secondary. Students struggling in a core class in 8th grade have a difficult time meeting standards in high school.

Ability to manage time and planning for projects and commitments.

Help your child plan their assignments and projects.

After-school programs that are school-based and high quality can provide children with a sense that they can do well academically. They also try harder at school.

Healthy coping strategies for problems and challenges that come their way. Don't be quick to rescue your middle-schooler; rather, encourage him/her to strategize healthy ways to meet the challenge.

School attendance is a strong indicator of success in high school and beyond.

Career Development Skills:

- Understanding the relationship between learning and work.
- Can clearly articulate areas of strengths and interests.
- Knowledge of skills necessary to seek and obtain employment.
- Understands the process of career development.
- Skills to understand, locate, and use career information.