



**Be Informed. Be Involved.**  
*Be Ready!*

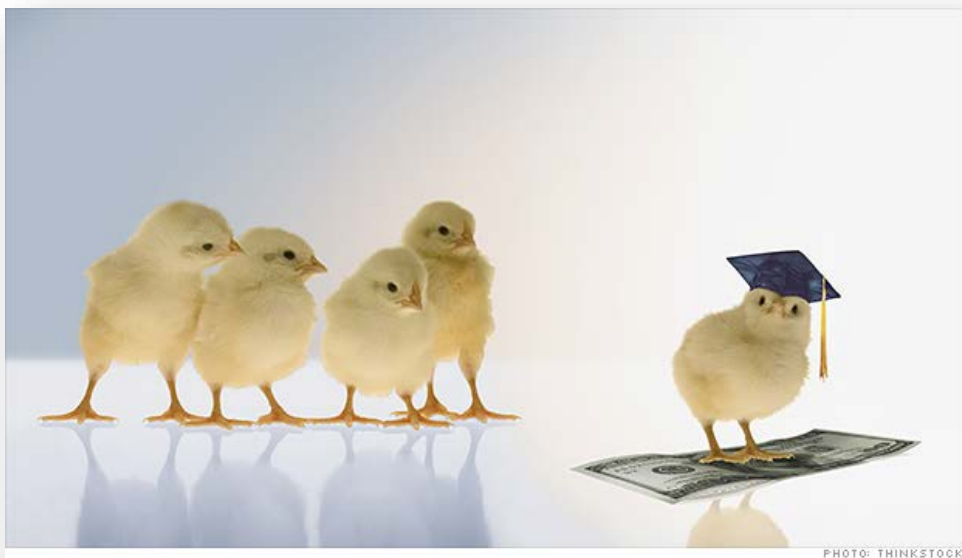


**PATH PARENT UNIVERSITY**

**ARE YOU A COLLEGE READY PARENT?**

# Activity

Think back to your teenage years. What do you wish someone had taught you then about money that you can teach your child now?



# Be Aware.

## What the Research Says.....

- Regardless of the economic, ethnic, or cultural background, family/parent involvement in a child's education is a major factor in determining the child's success in school.

Source: PTA Policy Issue Reference Cards, Revised February 2009

- Family involvement contributes to other positive outcomes, such as better school attendance, improved homework completion rates, decreased violence and substance abuse, and higher graduation rates.

Source: PTA Policy Issue Reference Cards, Revised February 2009

- Parents are crucial in guiding their children through a college preparatory curriculum, and middle school students generally cite their parents as their top resource for academic planning and support.

Source: From Aspirations to Action, A Report by Institute for Higher Education Policy, December 2007



# Myth or Reality?

“The financial aid package awarded for freshman year will stay the same until college graduation”.



# Why is College Readiness Important?

According to the College Board, students take on average 6.2 years to complete a 4-year degree (at an average cost of \$18,000 per year) often due to remedial coursework.





# Myth or Reality?

“College is so much different than high school”.







# Be Knowledgeable.

## Types of Colleges

College Type	What You Can Earn	Career Examples	Characteristics
Technical or Career College	Certificate Diploma Associate Degree	Computer Programmer Cosmetologist Dental Assistant Mechanic Medical Assistant Plumber	Smaller Class Sizes  Evening and weekend classes offered  Focus on skills needed for a specific career
Community College	Certificate Diploma Associate Degree Ability to transfer to 4-yr university	Accountant Air Plane Mechanic Dental Hygienist Legal Assistant Paramedic	Smaller class sizes  Evening & weekend classes offered  Can often transfer to a 4-yr university  Smaller class size
4-year College or University	Bachelor's degree Master's degree Doctorate degree Professional degree	Engineer Graphic Designer Pharmacist Pilot Social Worker Teacher	Most attend full-time  Can take many different classes  Usually have dorms on campus



# Be Prepared.



- **Start Early.** No matter how young your student is, it is never too early to begin planning for college and talking about it.
- **Be Clear.** Communicate your expectations to your student about his or her behavior and performance in school.
- **Talk.** Have frequent conversations with your student about schoolwork, goals and the importance of education.
- **Encourage.** Motivate your student to try new activities, volunteer in the community and succeed in school.





## Myth or Reality?

“My child’s senior year doesn’t count. Once a college accepts him or her, it’s okay if his or her grades slip in the last semester”.



# Be Helpful.

You may not always have a lot of time or know exactly what your student is learning, but there are ways you can help.

- Check your student's planner.
- When your student is working on homework or gets stuck, here are some questions you can ask:
  - o *What are you working on?*
  - o *Let's look at this together.*
  - o *What do the directions tell you to do?*
  - o *What words or directions don't you understand?*
  - o *Tell me what you've done so far.*
  - o *Let's look in your book or notebook for some notes and information that might help us.*
  - o *What did the teacher say when he or she gave you this assignment?*
  - o *Who can you call to get help?*
  - o *Can you go before or after school to get help from your teacher?*



# Myth or Reality?

“Your student can’t get into a selective college if they did poorly in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade”.



# Be Informed.

## In 3rd- 5th Grades

- Check in with your student's teachers to find out how he or she is doing academically and socially in school.
- Have your child set specific academic goals for the year. Review them to make sure your student attains his or her goals.
- Come up with fun reading ideas that make reading enjoyable; it can become a daily habit.
- Make a plan to check-in regularly about schoolwork/homework.
- Review all academic papers, progress reports and report cards with your student. You can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team.

## In 6th- 8th Grades

- Have your student set specific academic goals for the year. Review them to make sure your student attains his or her goals.
- Make a plan to check-in regularly about schoolwork/homework.
- Have your student clean out and organize his or her backpack weekly. This will help your student turn in assignments on time.
- Talk with your student about things they like to do and things they are good at. Combining the two can often lead to possible careers.
- Encourage your student to take the most-challenging course that he or she can handle.
- Encourage your student to get involved in clubs and other groups to feel more engaged in school.
- Find out how your student may be able to sign up for classes that will earn him or her high school credit in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.





# Be Involved.

## In 9th & 10th Grade

- Have your student meet with a school counselor to talk about careers that interest him or her as well as which courses best prepare for college.
- Talk with your student about ways to pay for college.
- Find out how your student may be able to sign up for classes that will earn him or her college credit in high school.
- Encourage your student to explore extra-curricular activities at school and in the community.

## In 11th Grade

- Attend college fairs and financial aid events with your student.
- Make sure your student takes the PSAT in the fall to prepare for the SAT.
- Help your student investigate which type of education is needed for the careers that interest him or her.
- Arrange campus visits to those schools that interest your student.
- Help your student sign up for classes that will earn him or her college credit in high school.
- Make sure your student takes the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Help your student research scholarship options.
- Make sure that school work is your student's top priority, above sports or working.

## In 12th Grade

- Arrange campus visits to those schools that interest your student.
- Make sure your student takes (or retakes) the ACT and/or SAT in the fall.
- Help your student select and apply to colleges that interest him or her.
- Make sure your student writes their required essay(s) early. Avoid last minute writing that could have a negative impact on your student's college application.
- Attend a financial aid event with your student.
- Make sure your student asks for recommendations (if required) from teachers, counselors and others.
- Help your student search and apply for scholarships in the fall.
- Help your student complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1.
- Make sure your student has his or her high school transcript sent to those colleges to which he or she applied.
- Make sure that school work is your student's top priority, above sports or working.
- Help you student choose a college.





# Be Supportive.

## Understanding College Entrance Tests & Test Anxiety

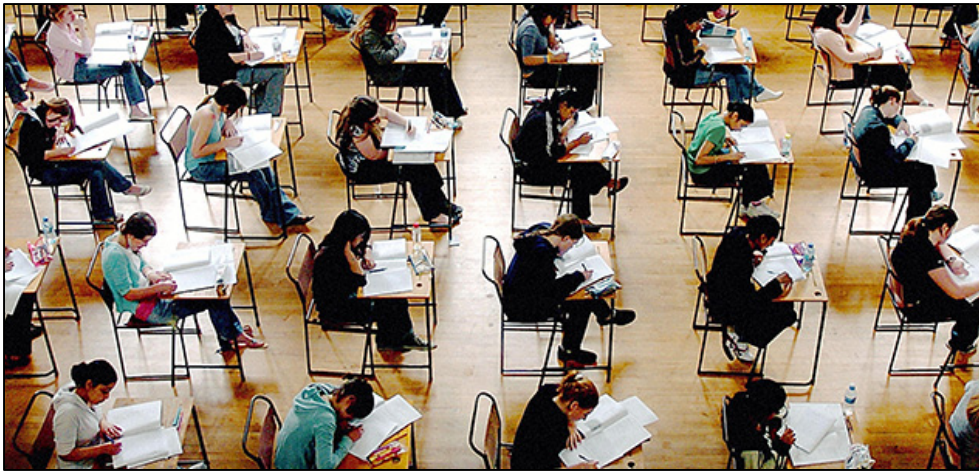
- Talk about tests in a very positive way, even if you had negative experiences yourself in school. Your student will pick up on your attitude about test taking.
- Remind your student that tests are meant to measure how well he or she understands a particular subject.





# Myth or Reality?

“My student should take the SATs as many times as possible to get a higher score?”





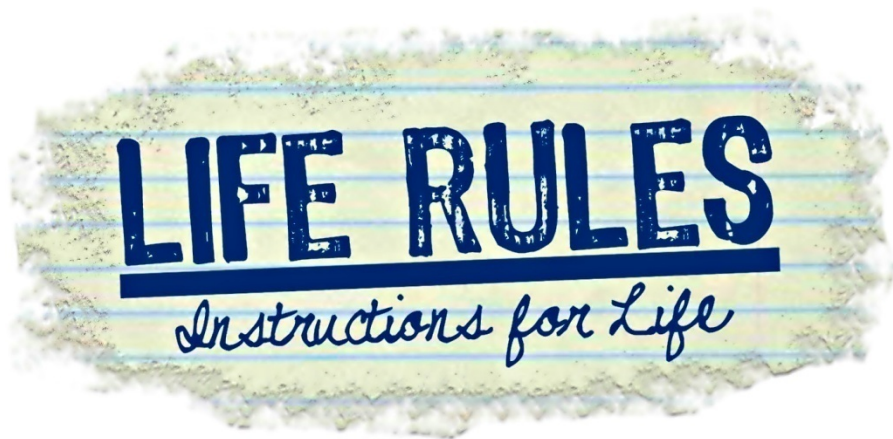
**L**isten  
**E**xplore  
**A**pplaud  
**D**evelop





# Reflection

Write down three rules that would be good for a person to follow their whole life.



**Congratulations.**

*You're Ready!*

