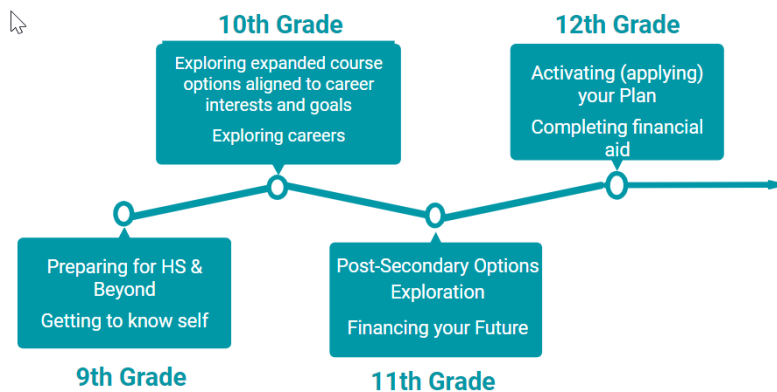




9th Grade Fall Student-Led Conferences & High School & Beyond Plan (HSBP)

In the 9th grade, the HSBP is focused on **self discovery** (specifically exploration) and **transitioning** into high school.

High School & Beyond Plan focus during high school:



Related to HSBP, 9th grade students should:

- Continue to cultivate a positive attitude towards work and learning and their self-confidence
- Explore and reflect on values, interests as it relates to academic goals, careers and world of work. Foster habits of setting and reflecting on goals (academic, career, personal/social)
- Cultivate creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration

Ninth Grade Matters

Ninth grade is a key year for students both academically and socially. Freshman year is essential in deciding whether a student drops out or stays in school. The transition from middle school can be challenging—harder classes with higher stakes, new social pressures, changing friend groups, and a desire to assert independence and become their own person.

High school is a new environment with a lot more freedom and more homework. It is not uncommon to see a drop in grades. The possibility of developing bad habits such as skipping class can also grow especially if a student is struggling.

Three signs—**attendance**, **behavior**, and **course performance**—are believed to be the most accurate way to predict the likelihood to either quit school or complete it.

The High School & Beyond Plan (HSBP) is a Washington State graduation requirement. In Highline Public Schools, the High School & Beyond Plan is a sequence of lessons and experiences delivered by dedicated, knowledgeable staff. The HSBP is a meaningful, individualized plan that is grounded in students' interests, strengths, and hopes for their future. Through deeper, structured conversations with caring adults and real world experiences, students stay engaged, on-track toward graduation, and are prepared for success after high school.

The biggest risk factor for failing ninth grade is the number of absences during the first 30 days. Missing more than ten percent is cause for concern. First-year high-school students are ‘on track’ if they earn at least five full year course credits, and have received no more than one F per semester. Students who fail more than one core class in their freshman year are more likely to drop out of high school without graduating.

How is your child doing? Supporting your teen through this important year is critical. Share ways to beat the beginning high school blues with your teen, like going to school (if you’re not in class, you can’t learn!), getting involved in school activities and clubs, asking for help if you need it, and having older students and adults serve as mentors

Things you can do as a parent/guardian:

Family Discussion Ideas

- Share your career/work experience. In what ways does/did your career/work reflect (or not) your values and interests?
- Share your hopes. What dreams do you have for your child 5-10 years after high school? What do you see as their strengths or traits that could help them succeed?
- Ask your student to imagine their life five years after you graduate from high school. What challenges do they want to solve? How does this relate to a career?
- Ask your student: Do your thoughts help or hurt your success? How?
- Ask your student: Is there anything you need to change about what you say to yourself? What?

Family Checklist

- Encourage your student to meet with their school counselor.** Have your student schedule a meeting to talk about career, college options to make sure they are taking the most appropriate classes.
- Encourage goals setting & reflection.** Encourage regular goal setting and interests and remind students it is okay to change their minds.
- Make a plan to regularly check in about school work.** To find out about your child’s grades, assignments, and attendance, you can use ParentVue at least weekly to keep up with your student’s progress.
- Access Resources.** Remind students to ask the College & Career Centers (and/or school counselors) about college and career programs students can participate in.
- Sign up for the [Scoop eNewsletter\(s\)](#) if you haven’t already.** Receive alerts of upcoming events and college and career resources directly to your inbox!



Scan the QR code to view this document electronically to access the linked resources or visit:
<https://www.highlineschools.org/departments/college-career-readiness/getting-to-graduation/high-school-and-beyond-plan/student-led-conference-family-resources>

¿Necesita apoyo de interpretación o traducción?
 Ma u baahan tahay turjumaad ama taageero turjumaad?
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