

9TH Grade Parent Guide to Meet with Counselor

High school is the time when parents often feel their presence isn't needed or valued, but high school is when grades start to count for college, career, and beyond. It's important for you to continue to stay involved and engaged. As the schoolwork gets more challenging, meetings with personnel in your child's education can be intimidating and overwhelming for parents. Try to remember that building a relationship through face-to-face meetings with your student's teachers and counselor is an opportunity for all parties involved to understand and support your child and their academic and social development. It is even more likely in high school than in middle school for your child to be invited to the conference, and you should encourage your child to join and participate in the discussion.

Parental Involvement

No one knows your child better than you do. Despite the fact your child is taking on more responsibility and independence in high school, your involvement is still critical. The counselor will likely be doing a lot of work with your child in planning for their future. Your insights for the counselor are just as important as what the counselor can offer you. The partnership you form with the counselor will benefit your child and help all of you find the right fit for your child after graduation, whether it is a four-year university, community college, military enrollment, or career.

Comprehensive View

Your child's school counselor has a more comprehensive view of your child than her teacher may have. Especially in high school when teachers are often focused on their class or subject, counselors monitor your child's academic progress and make sure she is taking the right types of classes to graduate on time and be prepared for career and college.

Struggling in School

If your child is struggling, the first person you may hear from is a teacher. If your child is having difficulty in multiple classes, you can contact the counselor to arrange conference(s) with different teachers. The counselor can suggest ways that you, as the parent, may be able to assist your student at home as well as see what ways the teacher(s) may be able to provide other opportunities to learn the material the student is not grasping. Should there be other issues that are expressed in which the student may need aid that can not be provided by the teacher, the counselor, who is concerned with your child's overall well-being, can offer referrals to mental health professionals if your child is having emotional or behavioral difficulties.

Transition to High School

The transition to high school can be difficult for students. Counselors can be a good resource for your child if they need someone to talk to or additional guidance on classes or activities.

Graduation Requirements

The counselor will know graduation requirements for your child. You should be aware of classes your child should take. Starting this conversation with your counselor early on will lay the foundation for planning for your child's academic future over the next four years.

Interests and Activities

The counselor is likely to begin asking about your child's interests and activities. It may be a conversation your child has with the counselor alone, or you may discuss in a meeting. In either case, you should also ask your child about her interests. Ninth grade is a good time to be thinking about what your child wants to do after high school. The counselor can suggest elective classes based on your child's interests.

Adapted from: <https://www.today.com/parenting-guides/9th-grade-school-counselor-guide-t178382>

