



**Parent Action Plan:
Helping Your Child
Navigate High School While
Preparing for College**

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade

As your child settles into the High School experience, it's a great time for him or her to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors, and career goals. Use the list below to help make 10th grade count.

Summer Before 10th Grade

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your 10th-grader excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can prepare for a campus visit.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/know-yourself/6-steps-to-get-the-most-out-of-a-campus-visit>
- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs>
- Help your sophomore explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents, and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Snyder students may do this through their Naviance account.

Fall

- Encourage your child to set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your High School student stay motivated and focused.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child's tests, papers, and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Plan to meet with your child's teacher if concerns arise.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/take-control-of-homework>
- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about the benefits of extracurricular activities in High School.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/extracurriculars-matter-to-you-and-to-colleges>
- Help your 10th-grader get ready to take the PSAT/NMSQT. All 10th graders at Snyder will take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall. Taking this test can help your child prepare for the SAT and get on track for college. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on.

Winter

- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs. Read 7 Things You Need to Know about Financial Aid to learn more.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/7-things-you-need-to-know-about-financial-aid>

Spring

- Talk with your child about their appointment with their School Counselor. These appointments usually take place in March and April. Their Counselor will schedule an individual appointment time to meet with them and discuss their academic goals and college plans. Your child's Counselor will also provide them with resources to help them navigate High School and plan for college. Learn more about the high school counselor's role.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/building-a-support-network/working-with-your-high-school-counselor-for-college-success>
- Discuss next year's classes. Our course catalog is available in late March/ early April. An appointment will be scheduled with them to discuss their course requests at the end of the school year. Make sure your child is challenging him- or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/your-high-school-record/high-school-classes-colleges-look-for>
- Make a college wish list together. Talk with your 10th-grader about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered, and so on. Check out How to Find a College That Fits You to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/college-savings-calculator>
- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out five ways your upper school student can stay motivated this summer.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/5-ways-to-stay-on-track-in-summer>