



Best & Worst Practices for Senior Parents & Guardians

Lakeside School
College Counseling Office

BEST

Celebrating all the schools on your student's list

Asking your student how you can be involved and helpful

Helping your student focus on what's in their control

Assessing proactively and discussing with your student what role affordability will have - how much are you able or willing to pay?

Modeling resilience when your student gets bad news

Encouraging your student to seek help from the college office when they need essay guidance

Trusting your student, with support from their counselor, to build strong applications

Focusing on your student's learning rather than their GPA - which isn't sent to colleges beyond UW!

Setting healthy boundaries with family & friends around not discussing your student's college process

WORST

Talking excitedly only about relatives & friends who went to "big name" schools

Being more involved in the process than your student

Overemphasizing standardized testing

Determining after your student is admitted that the college is unaffordable

Being visibly upset in front of your student when they get bad news

(Over)editing your student's essays, or telling them that their essay topic(s) may be "too cliché"

Requiring approval on every word in the application from your student's counselor

Centering too many conversations with your student on the college process

Sharing details of your student's process with others without their permission and/or comparing them to others