



Best & Worst Practices for Junior Parents & Guardians

Lakeside School
College Counseling Office

BEST

Telling your student you will be proud of them, regardless of where they attend college.

Expressing confidence and enthusiasm about *what* your student will learn, experience, and discover in college, rather than focusing on *where* they enroll.

Recognizing more is not better and that seeking outside advice can have a detrimental impact on your student's college process.

Assessing and discussing college affordability proactively with your student - how much are you able or willing to pay?

Protecting your student's privacy by developing friendly answers to questions from friends and relatives about your student's college process.

Focusing not only on the college process, but the many other exciting elements of junior and senior years that should bring joy to your family.

WORST

Talking constantly about college with your student and losing focus of the other exciting aspects of their daily lives.

Using the term "we" inappropriately (e.g. "we're applying to college") - you're not applying!

Becoming visibly stressed in front of your student over their college process.

Emailing your student's counselor with questions your student should be asking (e.g. "I'm filling out the application and what do I write...").

Focusing on and visiting unlikely schools because they "sound good," even if they're not the best fits.

Suggesting your student change their essay without first consulting their college counselor, or hiring an outside essay specialist who makes your student sound like a middle aged adult.