



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

September 2016

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Why College? Education Makes Life Better

- **More job satisfaction.** Individuals with a college degree are more likely to rate their work as important or very important.
- **More money.** Individuals with a college degree earn an average of \$22,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.
- **Less unemployment.** Someone with a four-year degree is much less likely to be unemployed than someone with only a high school diploma.
- **More benefits.** Jobs that require a college degree are more likely to offer health insurance and retirement plans.
- **Better health.** College graduates are more likely to exercise and report better health.
- **More likely to vote.** Thirty percent more college graduates voted in the 2008 election than those with only a high school diploma.
- **Volunteer more.** College graduates are twenty percent more likely to volunteer in their communities.
- **Live longer.** People with a college degree live almost nine years longer than those without a high school diploma.

Sources: [College Board](#), [U.S. Census](#), [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), [Oregon GEAR UP](#)



Have Naviance Questions?

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Upcoming Lessons in Naviance Family Connection with your counselor:

- [Intro. to Naviance or Naviance Basics Review](#)
- [6th, 7th, 8th Grade S.M.A.R.T Goals](#)

Did You Know?

According to a recent survey, for students in grades 6-12, only one percent of the parents did not expect their children to complete high school.

Source: [Parent and Family Involvement in Education](#)

Things to Think About...

- Do you have good study habits?
- Do you read what is necessary to complete an assignment?
- Do you hand in assignments on time?
- Do you prepare ahead of time for assignments and tests instead of cramming at the last minute?
- Do you have the resources needed to complete assignments or knows where to find what is needed? If not, ask a teacher or counselor for help.

Myth Buster

MYTH: The cost of college is so high it's not even an option anymore.

REALITY: In Washington State, nearly 71,000 low-income recipients received more than \$308 million in SNG funds during the 2014-15 academic year. This does not include those students receiving scholarships and loans without need-based aid.

Washington was listed as the top state nationally for students receiving undergraduate need-based financial aid during the 2014-15 year.

Cost doesn't have to be a barrier to attending college. There is money available to help.

Source: [Washington Student Achievement Council](#)



[Check Student Online Grades Here!](#)

Research shows that teens do better in school when their families are involved in their lives in and out of school. Here are some things you can do to help your student adjust to middle school:

- **Discuss** any concerns that your student may have before starting middle school.
- **Talk** to your student about the physical and social changes and social pressures that often occur.
- **Encourage** your student to take challenging classes. Ask your student's teachers or guidance counselor if these classes will help your student be competitive in high school and beyond.

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Try a new activity.** Now is a great time to try something new, whether it's a sport, a club, or volunteer work.
- ☐ **Ask for help with schoolwork.** If you start to feel shaky in a subject. If you wait until you get a bad grade on a paper or big test, you may fall behind.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Offer encouragement.** Encourage your child to do well in school and explore outside interests in sports, clubs, and volunteer work.
- ☐ **Review the school calendar together.** Note important dates and put them in a shared online calendar or in an easy-to-view place, such as a bulletin board in your kitchen.
- ☐ **Check in.** 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. Get [homework tips for your child](#) or homework help at: [Homework Help Desk](#). Find out about your child's grades, assignments, and attendance on our district's online system, [LMS](#). If you don't know how to access this system, contact your child's counselor for assistance.

Sources: [BigFuture](#) and [Washington Student Achievement Council](#)



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.