



# High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

September 2016

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Welcome to Junior Year!

Junior year is very important because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear.

This fall, **your child can prepare for education beyond high school by taking the PSAT.** It is a good idea for students to take it even if they're not sure they want to go to a four-year college. The PSAT assesses academic skills and gives students the chance to practice for the SAT. PSAT scores can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship competition.

**Your child's path after high school could include a four-year college, a two-year college, a CTE (technical college), military, or entering the workforce.** To pursue those options, your teen should **prepare to take an entrance exam.** No matter what path your child chooses, it will likely require at least one entrance exam. Talk to the guidance counselor to learn more about which test your child should take, when, and how to get a fee waiver if necessary.

The SAT and ACT are the main entrance exams for four-year colleges. The PSAT is the practice test for the SAT. Students will begin to register for and take other postsecondary exams junior year, depending on which postsecondary path they choose, juniors may take other postsecondary exams as well. Students can learn more about each of these exams and the registration processes at the following Internet sites:

- **Four-year colleges:** SAT, SAT Subject Tests: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- **Two-year colleges:** ACCUPLACER: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- **Military:** ASVAB: [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)

- **Free test preparation is available on each of the tests' websites.**
- **Test fees may be waived for students who meet income eligibility guidelines. Talk to a guidance counselor to see if your junior is eligible for fee waivers**



Have Naviance Questions?

[naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)

Upcoming Lessons in **Naviance Family Connection** with your counselor:

- **Developing a GamePlan!**

Check out **Naviance TestPrep!!**

-Free self-directed practice course for SAT & AP exams

-Log into Naviance Family Connection & click on

**resources**

- [Naviance Test Prep](#)

Other Testing Resources can be found here...

- [sat/act resources](#)

## Did You Know?

Research indicates that "hope is a better predictor of college success and graduation than GPA and test scores."

Source: Brandon Busteed, Executive Director, Gallup Education

## Myth Buster

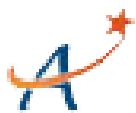
**MYTH:** Standardized tests (ACT, PSAT, SAT) are more important than high school grades.

**REALITY:** Performance in high school is a better predictor of college success than the standardized tests.

Colleges know that. That does not mean that most colleges won't look at your teen's SAT or ACT scores.

Some colleges have more applicants than they can assess. These colleges may use SAT and ACT scores to determine if applicants will be admitted.

Source: [College Trends: Myths](#)



[Check Student  
Online Grades Here!](#)

## 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.

### Student Checklist

- ❑ **Make sure you take rigorous classes** like Algebra II, a foreign language, dual-credit and honors courses.
- ❑ **Maintain a 3.0 GPA** by the end of 11th grade. NOTE: The College Bound Scholarship requires a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- ❑ **Start your year off right by talking with your guidance counselor** about the year ahead. Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.

### Family Checklist

- ❑ **Make sure your child meets with the school counselor.** This meeting is especially important this year as your junior starts to engage in the college application process. Learn more about the [counselor's role in applying to college](#).
- ❑ **Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps your high schooler stay motivated and focused.
- ❑ **Help your child stay organized.** Work with your junior to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges.
- ❑ **Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October.**

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [NACAC](#) Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [BigFuture](#), & [ReadySetGrad](#)



Visit [readyssetgrad.org](https://readyssetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.