



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

October 2016

9th Grade

Ninth Grade Matters

Ninth grade is a key year for students both academically and socially. Freshman year is essential in deciding whether a student drops out or stays in school. The transition from middle school can be challenging –harder classes with higher stakes, new social pressures, changing friend groups, and a desire to assert independence and become their own person.

High school is a new environment with a lot more freedom and more homework. It is not uncommon to see a drop in grades. The possibility of developing bad habits such as skipping class can also grow especially if a student is struggling.

Three signs—**attendance**, **behavior**, and **course performance**—are believed to be the most accurate way to predict the likelihood to either quit school or complete it.

The biggest risk factor for failing ninth grade is the number of absences during the first **30 days**. Missing more than ten percent is cause for concern. First-year high-school students are 'on track' if they earn at least five full year course credits, and have received no more than one F per semester. Students who fail more than one core class in their freshman year are more likely to drop out of high school without graduating.

Families...supporting your teen through this important year is critical. Share ways to beat the beginning high school blues with your teen, like going to school (if you're not in class, you can't learn!), getting involved in school activities and clubs, asking for help if you need it, and having older students and adults serve as mentors.

Sources: [The Critical 9th Grade Year](#), [Practical Leadership Research Brief](#), [National High School Center](#)



Have Naviance Questions?

naviance@everettsd.org

Upcoming Lesson
in Naviance Family
Connection with
your counselor:

- **Getting Started with Naviance Family Connection**



Oct. 18 @ Cascade HS

Oct. 19 @ Everett HS

Oct. 20 @ Jackson HS

Starting at 5:30pm!

Click here to view the flyer with details!!

Did You Know?

By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Source: [AttendanceWorks](#)