



College prep timeline for 10th graders

AUGUST

- ☐ Go over your teen's fall schedule: Is there enough time for homework, sleep, and fun?
- ☐ Confirm with the school counselor that this year's classes count for getting into college.

Also this month...



Encourage involvement. Kids who participate in extracurriculars have higher self-esteem, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate from college.

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Register your budding Division I or II college athlete with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- ☐ If you haven't yet, start saving money for college.

Also this month...



Help your teen get organized. Offer support to start the year off right. Your teen should have digital tools and a planner to keep track of their schedule and homework.

OCTOBER

- ☐ Sign up for the PSAT. (It's a low-stakes way to get familiar with and practice for the SAT.)

Also this month...



Talk about the importance of good grades and study habits. Self-testing is a proven way to remember what they read and learn new concepts. Ask your teen how you can help.

NOVEMBER

- ☐ Research and start applying for scholarships. Sophomores are eligible for many!

Also this month...



Start learning about the college application process. Browse a book or website on the topic and take a look at this year's Common Application and essay questions.

DECEMBER

- ☐ Start planning next year's classes. Encourage your teen to take a challenging course load.

JANUARY

- ☐ Review your teen's grades together. Talk about successes, improvements, and goals.
- ☐ Meet with a college counselor to start exploring your teen's college options.

Also this month...



Talk about college majors and career goals. Taking a personality test can spark an interesting discussion. Research the paths that can take your teen where they want to go.

FEBRUARY

- ☐ Check if your child needs reading help.
- ☐ Search for upcoming college fairs in your area and plan to attend at least one.

Also this month...



Encourage your teen to pursue a leadership role in an extracurricular activity.

MARCH

- ☐ Learn the difference between the SAT and ACT; next year your teen will decide which test to take.
- ☐ Make plans for summer that include enrichment activities and/or learning opportunities.

APRIL-MAY

- ☐ Make sure your teen's junior year course load is challenging and balanced.
- ☐ Look up NCAA rules if your child hopes to play NCAA sports or get a sports scholarship.

Also this month...



Should your teen take an SAT subject test this year? If your teen is taking an honors or AP science, math, or foreign language class, they can take the associated SAT subject test now while the information is fresh.

JUNE

- ☐ Encourage reading for fun! College admissions pros say teens should read daily over summer break.
- ☐ Help your teen make summer count by working, volunteering, or taking a class.