



High School Education

It is week three of National Financial Literacy Month! This week's topic is future planning. Future planning is like a roadmap, it helps people reach their desired destination. It allows people to identify what is important to them, helps reduce stress, assists in creating balance in their lives and to achieve their goals.

How do you plan your future in high school and once you graduate? Some people know from an early age what they want to be when they grow up, where they want to go to school and how they plan to get there. Others are unsure of their future path. Thinking about your future, can be intimidating, but with the right tools and resources, you will feel a sense of power, freedom, and relief.

This week's content will provide you with a roadmap to guide you through your high school years. In addition, it will provide options and information after high school.



FRESHMAN YEAR

- Start thinking about your college plan
- Maintain a well-balanced schedule
- Identify areas of interest
- Don't skip classes or miss homework
- Get involved
- Ask for help and participate in class
- Start keeping track of awards, accomplishments, and recognition
- Remember high school is not just about socializing

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Stay involved
- PSAT and PLAN tests
- Enroll in a foreign language
- Volunteer
- College funding
- Continue to track awards, accomplishments, and recognition
- Remember high school is not just about socializing

PSAT – Measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills and is the practice test for the SAT.

PLAN – This is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. It focuses on English, math, reading and science and is the preliminary test for the ACT.

College Funding – Review FAFSA, start looking at scholarship opportunities, grants, loans, etc.



JUNIOR YEAR

Fall

- Take the PSAT and/or PLAN
- Meet with your guidance counselor
- Explore careers and colleges

Spring

- Take ACT or SAT test
- Research college funding
- Start assembling application materials
- Stay focused

PSAT/PLAN – take these practice tests if you have not already done so!

Take the SAT or ACT – colleges recommend that students have at least one standardized score before end of their junior year.

College Funding: Research how to pay for college, find out what financial aid may be available to you and identify scholarship opportunities and write down the deadlines to apply.

Application materials: Make a list of schools you would like to apply to and understand what is required for the school's application process. Start this process towards the end of the school year. Request information and applications from the schools you are interested in.

SENIOR YEAR

September – November

- Take or retake ACT/SAT
- Complete and submit college applications
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendations
- Complete FAFSA
- Scholarships
- Meet with high school counselor

December - February

- Continue to apply for colleges and scholarships
- Complete the FAFSA and review your SAR

March – June

- Consider college acceptances
- Call financial aid with questions
- Make final decision – May 1
- Send in any required forms or deposits
- BE PROUD!



OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Gap Year
- Work
- Military
- Certificate Programs
- Vocational/Technical
- Community College
- 4-year College/University
- Graduate/Master's Degree

GAP Year - A gap year is a period between high school and college when students take a break from their studies.

Work - This is a great opportunity to earn and learn.

Military – This is a great opportunity for those that thrive on structure and physical activity.

Trade and Certificate Programs – Trade or vocational programs offer a direct path toward specific jobs such as web design, electricians, plumbers, and medical assistance.

Education Options

- Vocational/Technical
- Community College
- 4-year College or University

