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|  | | Eleventh Grade | Spring Edition | | | | | | | |  | |
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|  | NEWSLETTER TEMPLATEHigh School & Beyond Planning — News & Information | | | | | | | | | |  |
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| *Replace with School Contact Info* | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| NARROW DOWN OPTIONS  Now is the time to follow a more specific path. Encourage your child to decide whether to pursue full-time employment, further education, or training (such as an apprenticeship, a technical school, or a two-year or four-year college) or begin a military career. Students interested in attending a military academy should talk to a guidance counselor about starting the application process now.  You and your child should continue gathering college information. Requesting more on a college’s admission website will help your teen learn more about the college and let the college know that your child is interested.  To narrow down college options, have your child list schools that meet criteria and preferences (for example, size, location, cost, academic majors, or special programs). Your child should weigh each factor according to its importance and then develop an initial ranking of the schools on the list.  Encourage your teen to attend college fairs, attend college nights, and speak with college representatives who visit the high school. | | |  |  | CAMPUS VISITS  Visiting colleges can help your child find their best college fit. All colleges have admission offices that can help you plan your visit. Or find out if the high school has organized group tours of nearby colleges. You can plan your visit to a college campus. Take these important first steps:   * To get details and make a reservation, contact the college admissions office via the college's website, email, or phone. * Talk to the high school counselor about joining an organized tour of campuses you might not get to visit otherwise. | **Campus visits vary, but most include:**   * An information session. An admission representative talks to you about the college. * A campus tour led by current students. You’ll see the main parts of the campus and have a chance to ask questions. * Additional opportunities. You may be able to arrange to do the following: attend a class, eat in the dining hall, or meet with a professor, an admission officer, and a financial aid officer.   **Before your visit:**   * Explore the college’s website and review any materials the college has sent you. * Make a list of questions to ask both staff and students. * Get a college campus map and check where the admission office is. This will help ensure that you're on time for your visit.   When you're ready to go, pack a notebook and a camera so you can record your impressions. | | | | | |
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| UPCOMING EVENTS   * Click here to enter text. |  | |  | **Graduation cap with solid fill**  DID YOU KNOW?  Your child can take free online practice tests at the following websites:   * ACCUPLACER: (For community & technical colleges) [accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice](http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice) * ACT: (For 4-year colleges) [www.act.org/academy](http://www.act.org/academy) * ASVAB: (For the military) [official-asvab.com/applicants.htm](http://official-asvab.com/applicants.htm) * SAT: (For 4-year colleges) [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat) | | |

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| High School & Beyond Planning  Eleventh Grade | Spring Edition | gearup.wa.gov | | | | | |
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| **TEST PREPARATION**  Students planning to attend a four-year college may need to take the SAT or the ACT. There are other standardized tests for those students planning to enlist in the military or attend a two-year or technical college. Share these test-taking tips with your child.  **Know What To Expect**  Learn about the test sections and the types of questions asked. Even better, take a practice test to get a feel for the questions you will encounter.  **Read The Instructions**  Know what the section asks you to do, what types of answers are expected, how many questions are in that section, and how much time you have. Read the instructions before you begin. |  | **Pace Yourself**  On most standardized tests, there is a time limit for each section. Before you begin each section, ensure you know how much time you are allowed. Check your watch or the clock in the exam room to determine when you will have to finish. Then, calculate how many questions you must answer and determine how quickly you must work (for instance, two minutes per question or ten minutes per essay).  **Answer Easy Questions First**  Because the test is timed, it is essential to move through it as quickly as possible. If you don’t know the answer to a question immediately, move on and return to it later. Remember to skip that question on your answer sheet as well.  **Use The Process Of Elimination For Difficult Questions**  If you don’t know the answer to a question, see if you can eliminate any wrong answers. If you can eliminate several possible answers, you can then make an educated guess from those that remain. | | | |
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| STUDENT CHECKLIST   * Begin taking a more serious look at post-high school pathways. Make a file for each program or school you are interested in and gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life. * Visit campuses, go to college, attend career fairs and open houses, and learn as much as possible about colleges online. * Develop a preliminary list of options that interest you. Request more information. * Think about lining up a summer job or internship. * Search for local, federal, state, and private scholarships. * Plan senior year classes and ensure they meet your post-high school plan requirements. * Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults you might ask to write letters of recommendation for your college applications. | | |  |  | MYTHBUSTER  **MYTH:** My child can't possibly get a college scholarship because of the competition.  **REALITY:** Many contests and potential awards exist, but students must seek them out. Millions upon millions of scholarship dollars are also available.  First, however, students must determine what they do well. Scholarship contests aren't just for valedictorians but for people with interests and talents. The opportunities are diverse.  As students search, they should be sure to look in their community. Many of them require little more from each student than writing an essay or giving a speech. |
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| FAMILY CHECKLIST   * Search together for post-high school programs or schools that meet your child’s needs. Create a list of options to apply to. * Help your child research scholarships. * Attend career and college fairs and financial aid events. Your child can ask the school counselor how to find events in your area. * Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your high schooler investigate summer learning programs or find a job or internship. * Visit colleges together. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the [**Campus Visit Checklist**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist) to learn how to get the most out of these experiences. * Help your teen look at some college applications. Start thinking about the different pieces of information you will need to compile. * Help your teen make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults they might ask to write letters of recommendation for their college applications. | | |