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|  | Eleventh Grade | Summer 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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| WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD DO DURING THE SUMMER Encourage your teen to do as much of the following to make their planning for education after high school go as smoothly as possible. Ideas include: * Think about and outline a college essay. Get tips and see samples at [BigFuture](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays) or see the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook on gearup.wa.gov
* List the qualities you desire in a post-high school program college.
* Work to improve your standardized test scores. If your scores are not in a school's 50% range, you may want to retake the SAT and/or ACT in the fall.
 |  |  | * Get a summer job. Personal responsibility is an important trait, and nothing says responsibility quite like a job. Remember, taking care of a family member counts!
* Take summer classes at a local college/university. Enrolling in summer courses will show admissions officers that you can succeed academically at their school.
* Practice your interview skills. You may have an interview if you're shooting for a top-ten school or your GPA and SAT scores are at the lower end of your dream school's applicant pool.
* Volunteer. Admissions counselors are looking for certain personality traits, compassion being one of the most important.
* Visit two or three colleges. Use these summer visits to figure out what kind of college you want to attend.
* Think about potential careers. This isn't entirely necessary since most people have no clue what they want to do for the rest of their lives at 17! But, if you've never thought about it, putting some time into thinking about careers that match your interests can't hurt.
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| UPCOMING EVENTS* Click here to enter text.
 |  |  | **Graduation cap with solid fill**DID YOU KNOW?Think you don’t qualify for financial aid? Think again.WA Grant is one of the country's most generous financial aid programs.Recent high school graduates and working-age adults from many low—and middle-income families can qualify for free money toward career training, college, and apprenticeships. |

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| High School & Beyond Planning Eleventh Grade | Summer Edition | gearup.wa.gov |
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| *****Insert Summer Opportunities*****  |  | *****Insert Summer Opportunities*****  |
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| STUDENT CHECKLIST* Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August. Work on the essay before you return to school.
* Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you most.
* Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
* Decide whether you will apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
* Use a financial aid estimator and compare your results to the actual costs at the colleges you will apply to.
 |  |  | MYTHBUSTERMYTH: The cost of college is so high it’s not even an option anymore!REALITY: If students want to go to college, they are living in the right state!Washington is number one nationally for students receiving undergraduate financial aid.  |
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| FAMILY CHECKLIST * Look at your financial situation and learn how to help pay for college. Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be.
* Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs.
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