



9-12 Postsecondary Planning Checklist

DRAFT BLURB:

Checklist with links to activities and lessons, designed to help with the most important decisions and activities for postsecondary planning in every grade. Keep track of what you've done - and get ahead!

GRADE / CREDITS	CHECKLIST	{{Hover Over}} ← tbd after confirmation
Grades 9-10 / 0-16 Credits	☐ Learn to Use Big Future	So you can... • use College Board's Big Future to research colleges and filter for selectivity, location and majors • identify three colleges of interest from the filtered search, review each school's profile information, and identify features that you are looking for in college or postsecondary program
	☐ Explore Colleges and Careers through Virtual Tours	So you can... • create a list of potential colleges and careers that interest you and your child • use an online search engine to locate colleges, careers, and/or postsecondary training programs that offer virtual tours or can be explored online • complete a virtual tour of 1-2 colleges from your child's list • use the internet to research 1-2 companies, organizations or training programs from your child's list
	☐ Take the P/SAT and Interpret Score Reports	So you can... • interpret your child's P/SAT score report • identify your child's areas of strength/growth • outline specific next steps for supporting your child's academic progress
	☐ Explore Career Interests	So you can... • determine your child's "True Color" temperament as part of a purposeful career exploration process • identify three careers of interest that align with your child's "True Color" temperament
	☐ Write a Resume	So you can... • explain the role a resume plays in the job search process and the world of work. • identify the key components of a student resume.



9-12 Postsecondary Planning Checklist

		• create a working draft of your child’s resume that includes the key components and well drafted language to describe their skills and experiences.
Grade 11 / 16-33 Credits	☐ <u>Building a Postsecondary List</u>	So you can... • define the term “match” as it relates to college and career planning • explain eligibility requirements for NYS Opportunity Programs • define the terms “Reach,” “Match” and “Likely” as they relate to building a postsecondary list • use the <i>Match Selectivity Chart</i> to identify a sample student’s match category and explain how to use the <i>College Match Tool</i> to find colleges that are in that match category • use the <i>College Match Tool</i> to identify colleges for a sample student that are an academic and financial fit • Assess your child’s eligibility for the NYS Opportunity Programs by reviewing my family’s income documents • use the <i>College Match Tool</i> to identify colleges (1 Reach, 1 Match, 1 Likely) for a personalized postsecondary list
	☐ <u>Take P/SAT Exams and Interpret Score Reports</u>	So you can... • interpret your child’s P/SAT score report • identify your child’s areas of strength/growth • outline specific next steps for supporting your child’s academic progress
	☐ <u>Determine Eligibility for Financial Aid and Opportunity Programs</u>	So you can... • define key financial aid terms and distinguish between different types of financial aid available • identify and gather the family income document needed to apply for specific financial aid and self-assess for the NYS opportunity Program eligibility
	☐ <u>Developing a Personal Statement</u>	So you can... • engage in at least one of the provided brainstorming exercises to help your child generate relevant and powerful content for their personal statement • develop a clearer understanding of the most effective ways your child can structure, outline and craft an opening for their personal statement • help your child apply what they have learned to draft elements of their personal statement • develop a clearer understanding of key steps to support the revision process and help your child refine their personal statement draft



9-12 Postsecondary Planning Checklist

Grade 12 / 33+ Credits	☐ <u>Explore Colleges and Careers through Virtual Tours</u>	So you can... • create a list of potential colleges and careers that interest your child • use an online search engine to locate colleges, careers, and/or postsecondary training programs that offer virtual tours or can be explored online • complete a virtual tour of 1-2 colleges from your child's list • use the internet to research 1-2 companies, organizations or training programs from your child's list
	☐ <u>Make Affordable Postsecondary Choices</u>	So you can... • analyze and compare financial aid award letters in order to make a decision that's a strong match for affordability. • verify the accuracy and completeness of the aid packages you've received, based on your knowledge of the types of aid available and your personal/family situation. • conduct website visits/virtual tours of the most affordable options in order to inform your child's postsecondary decision. • identify next steps in the enrollment process and the lingering questions you need to ask your child's school counselor
	☐ <u>Make a Strong Match College Choice</u>	So you can... • define the three key elements of a strong match college choice -- graduation rate, affordability, student supports • compare graduation rates, analyze affordability, and assess the availability of student success supports for a sample student's college choices • compare graduation rates, analyze affordability, and assess the availability of student success supports for my college choices, to make a strong match decision with your child.
	☐ <u>Prepare for the World of Work</u>	So you can... • assess career interests and identify 1-2 careers on which to focus preparation and planning. • build knowledge of chosen career(s) through conducting detailed research using online and digital materials. • create a career map and timeline that lists the actions steps to ensure preparation for work. • explore additional resources that can help prepare for work.
	☐ BONUS: <u>All Things</u>	So you know... • how to complete applications for postsecondary funding



9-12 Postsecondary Planning Checklist

Financial Aid

- definitions and context for financial aid terms, such as subsidized and unsubsidized loans
- cumulative costs of loans and the pros/cons of taking out loans
- the difference between direct and indirect costs of college