

# Parent Checklist

## Grades 9-12

# 9th Grade

## Parent Checklist

To Do:	
	Talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
	Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades—stay involved.
	Encourage your child to take <a href="#">Advanced Placement</a> or other challenging classes.
	Add to your child's college savings account regularly; and make sure you are fully aware of the provisions of the account.

To Explore:	
	Address your concerns about <a href="#">whether your child can or should go to college</a> .
	Read " <a href="#">Parent Power</a> " to access ideas for remaining involved in your child's progress.

# 10th Grade

## Parent Checklist

To Do:	
	Find out whether your child's school has college nights or financial aid nights. Plan to attend those events with your child.
	Help your child develop independence by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.

To Explore:	
	Learn about the <a href="#">standardized tests</a> your child will be taking during 10th through 12th grades.
	Get a brief overview of financial aid from <a href="#">Federal Student Aid at a Glance</a> .

# 11th Grade

## Parent Checklist

To Do:	
	<p><a href="#">Create your own FSA ID</a> if you don't have one yet. (The FSA ID is a username and password that you'll use for such purposes as signing your child's <i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</i>.) <b>Note: You must create your own FSA ID. If your child creates it for you, or if you create your child's, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process.</b> (Need help? You and your child should watch the <a href="#">"How to Create Your FSA ID" video</a> above.)</p>
	Take a look at your financial situation, and be sure you're on the right track to pay for college.
	Talk to your child about the schools he or she is considering. Ask why those schools appeal to your child, and help him or her clarify goals and priorities.
	Attend college fairs with your child, but don't take over the conversation with the college representatives. Just listen, and let your child do the talking.
	Take your child to visit college campuses, preferably when classes are in session.
	Make sure your child is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
	Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children.

To Explore:	
	Get in-depth information on the <a href="#">federal student aid programs</a> .
	Find out <a href="#">how the federal student aid application process works</a> .
	Learn about student and parent loans in <a href="#">Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students</a> and <a href="#">Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents</a> .

# 12th Grade

## Parent Checklist

### To Do:

Work with your child on [filling out the FAFSA form](#).

### To Explore:

Make sure your child's [personal information is safe](#) when he or she applies for financial aid. For tips, read [Federal Student Aid and Identity Theft](#).

Read [IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education](#) to see how you might benefit from federal income tax credits for education expenses.

Understand the [benefits of federal student loans](#).

Help your child learn about the responsibilities involved in accepting a student loan by reviewing [“What should I consider when taking out federal student loans?”](#) with him or her.

Look at communications from schools to which your child sent FAFSA information. If a school has offered you or your child Direct PLUS Loans, the [Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students](#) and [Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents](#) booklets might be useful to you.