




**EARLY PREPARATION FOR
SUCCESS IN COLLEGE**



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WHY DO WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO GO TO COLLEGE?

- Be able to earn a sustainable living wage for themselves and their families.
- Develop their skills and talents so they are self confident and can lead healthy, happy productive lives.

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FACTS ABOUT EARNING POWER

- 90% FASTEST GROWING JOBS IN US REQUIRE SOME POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
- MEDIAN EARNING W/SOME COLLEGE, BUT NO DEGREE WERE 18% HIGHER THAN HS GRADS
- THOSE W/2 YR DEGREES EARNED 29% MORE THAN HS GRADS
- THOSE W/4YR DEGREES EARNED 62% MORE THAN HS GRADS

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HOW SOON SHOULD CHILDREN START PREPARING FOR COLLEGE?

- Doing well in elementary school prepares a student to excel in high school and college
- Mastering the benchmarks at each grade level in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, History
- Specific academic preparation for college begins in middle school, e.g., Algebra I,
- Should be ready for high school core classes, English, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, History,

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RESEARCH SHOWS

- Students who complete Algebra and Geometry by end of 9th grade are more likely to go to college than those who do not.
- By taking these courses early students are prepared to take geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and science courses in high school.
- Students who do well in math are more likely to secure better paying jobs than those that do not do well in math.

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HOW DO OUR STUDENTS GET TO COLLEGE

- THEY NEED TO MEET ACADEMIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE WITH A "C" OR BETTER GRADES - IN HIGH SCHOOL:
 - 4 YRS ENGLISH
 - 3 YRS MATH-ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA 2
 - 2 YRS LABORATORY SCIENCE
 - 3 YRS SOCIAL STUDIES
 - 2 YRS SAME FOREIGN LANGUAGE
 - 1 YR VISUAL OR PERFORMING ART
 - 1 YR ADDITIONAL COURSE FROM ABOVE COURSES
 - Take SAT 1 or ACT + Writing tests, submit to colleges

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THEY NEED TO GO BEYOND THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- STRIVE FOR HIGHEST GRADES—NEVER GET D OR F GRADES
- TAKE CHALLENGING COURSES – ADVANCED
- DO WELL ON STAR TESTS – ADV. OR PROF.
- BE ACTIVE IN SCHOOL, SPORTS, LEADERSHIP
- VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY
- DEVELOP A TALENT, EXPERTISE, SKILL IN SOME AREA (music, art, math, writing, etc.)

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HOW DO WE HELP OUR CHILDREN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY

- KNOW YOUR CHILD’S STAR (CST) TEST RESULTS
- KNOW WHAT GRADES YOUR CHILD RECEIVES, ESPECIALLY IN READING, WRITING, MATH, SCIENCE
- GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER, IF YOU CAN, VOLUNTEER IN CLASS AND FIELD TRIPS
- ASK YOUR CHILD TO TELL YOU WHAT HE/SHE LEARNED IN SCHOOL TODAY

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EXPERIENCES THAT WILL HELP OUR CHILDREN BE MORE COMPETITIVE

- Summer programs in science, math, computers, art, etc.
- Visiting college campuses nearby, UCSC, SCU, CSUMB, San Jose State, Stanford University
- Visit museums – San Jose – Tech & Children’s museums
- A habit of borrowing books from library
- Helping younger children with homework
- Play a musical instrument, perform in theater arts programs
- Join summer youth sports programs – team player

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VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- If you’re going to the San Jose Mall.. Visit San Jose State or Santa Clara University
- If you’re going to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Costco or shopping in Seaside.... go to CSUMB
- Going to the Boardwalk or shopping at the Capitola Mall or downtown Santa Cruz.... Check out UCSC or Cabrillo in Aptos
- Go online to www.CaliforniaColleges.edu to get ideas about different colleges and make plans to visit them while on a family trip.

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Build Excitement About Going to College

HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF COLLEGE/CAREER IS BEST FOR YOUR CHILD

- GET TO KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD PREFERS:
- BEING OUTSIDE/INSIDE, ALONE, W/ CHILDREN OR ADULTS, ORGANIZING OR CREATING THINGS, ETC.
- TALK ABOUT WHAT HE/SHE WANTS TO BE
- DOES HE/SHE ENJOY STIMULATION FROM A LOT OF ACTIVITY OR PREFERS QUIET
- DOES HE/SHE FEEL MORE SUPPORT AND SECURITY FROM FAMILY OR FRIENDS?

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CONSIDERING DIFFERENT COLLEGES

- Make sure the college your child selects is the best college for him/her, and not one by default because of grade ineligibility or financial constraint.
- Often times the above reasons for selecting a college lead to failure to complete the whole college program or degree.

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DIFFERENT COLLEGES

- Community, Technical & Junior Colleges can lead to an A.S. or A.A. degree and often comparable to the first 2 years of a general education program at a 4-yr college or university.
- Students may transfer to a 4 yr college or they may also complete certificates in technical occupations.
- These colleges operate under “open admissions” policy; admission with HS diploma, GED or over 18 years of age.
- All students must take placement tests.

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

- There are 23 State Universities (CSU) in CA
- These colleges confer bachelor’s and masters degrees in the arts and sciences.
- Students may graduate to become accountants, dietitians, engineers, journalists, computer analysts, etc. or go on to graduate school to pursue a career.
- Need to meet the college eligibility requirements and apply for admission to CSU.
- They must take a placement tests to enroll in a California State University.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

- There are 10 UC campuses in California
- There are many private colleges and universities in California and in the United States.
- Students need to meet the college eligibility requirements and they must apply to be accepted to the college.
- They need to take placement tests in English and math.

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COST OF ATTENDING COLLEGE

- Community Colleges – approximately \$2,500 for tuition, fees, food, books/supplies, transportation.
- CSU – Approximately \$17,194 for tuition, fees, board/room, books/supplies, personal expenses, transportation
- UC / Private universities – from 23,185 - \$52,187 for tuition, fees, board/room, books/supplies, personal expenses, transportation

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HOW DO WE PAY FOR OUR CHILDREN’S COLLEGE?

- Parents are expected to pay some portion – this is the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)
- All students planning to attend college, university, trade or technical school need to apply for the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).
- The taxes we pay help pay tuition and fees for students to attend college. The amount available to each student depends on the family income from their income taxes. This determines the EFC.

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WHAT MONEY IS AVAILABLE

Grants – from federal government and state government- the amount is based on EFC to meet part of the student’s cost of attendance.

Pell Grant – pays maximum of \$5,350

Cal Grant A – to receive this grant the student must have 3.0 GPA if attending CSU - \$4,026, UC-\$7,788, Private-\$9,708.

Cal Grant B – must have 2.0, pays \$1,551

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Academic Competitive Grant (ACG) – students must meet the A-G college admission requirements – pays \$750

Scholarships – another form of free money. This money is available through private donors. Students must submit applications for each scholarship. The donor sets the requirements for the scholarship and selects the recipients from the field of applicants, can be as wide as entire nation, or as narrow as a local club. Many scholarships want to know the student filed a FAFSA.

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WORK STUDY

- Students should check work study on FAFSA
- Students may secure a job at the college that will pay more than minimum wage and can earn up to \$3,000 a year.
- Often times these are jobs where students will have time to do some of their homework while they are working.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

- The higher the student’s GPA the greater the chances of that student receiving scholarships.
- Colleges offer both merit-achievement based, and need based - on student’s financial need, college grants and scholarships. Some college scholarships pay up to \$10,000 or more.
- Never pay to find out about scholarships. You can research scholarships. www.fastweb.com

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LOANS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

EXPLORE ALL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS BEFORE RESORTING TO LOANS.

- Subsidized federal loans are the best if you must take out a loan. Student does not have to begin paying it off until after graduation.
- Unsubsidized loans have lower rates of interest than bank loans.

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YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE IS YOUR FUTURE AND OUR FUTURE

- Don’t let lack of money keep your child from pursuing his/her dreams for a better future through college, trade or technical school.
- You may need to have your child’s support when you get older!!!
- Remember your responsibility is to keep your child focused on learning and succeeding in school now, so he/she will be admitted to college.

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RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

- College Board publishes the PSAT, SAT and the CSS profile. It is a good place to find out about careers, colleges and scholarships.
- Both students and parents may apply for a free account go to: www.collegeboard.com and click – FOR PARENT.
- Other equally helpful resources are: www.CaliforniaColleges.edu and www.princetonreview.com

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What do we want for our children?

- To develop their skills and talents, so they are self confident and can lead healthy, happy productive lives.
- To be able to earn a sustainable living wage for themselves and for their own families.
- To be able to make a contribution not only to their family, but to their community and society.

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