

How can I help my middle schooler plan for life after high school?

Dream

Parents have the most influence on a student's future career. Talk with your student about his or her dreams for the future.

- What is their dream job?
- Where do they want to live, what type of house or car would they like to have?
- Ask your student what they think they need to do to achieve their dreams?
- Are their current actions and habits helping them to achieve their dreams?
- What steps do they need to take to achieve their dreams?

Plan

A dream is just a dream without a plan. Help your student create a plan to achieve her or his dreams.

- What are your students' strengths?
- In what subjects are they interested and should be more challenged?
- Does your student need additional support in a class to do better?
- Remember, you can use the results of your student's [Career Assessment](#) tool to help identify their areas of strength, interest, and more. Note: you can find this tool on the Next Steps website.

Planning for the future also involves making sure that your student takes all courses required to graduate from high school. (Graduation requirements are listed on each high school's website.)

Achieve

Students are more likely to achieve their goals when they write them down. The classes they take in middle school will help them prepare for high school.

- Think about what classes will best prepare them for the classes they need to take in high school to ready themselves for their future education/training.
- Do they want to start taking another language in middle school?
- What math classes should they take in middle school, so that they can take Calculus in high school?
- What classes can they take that will prepare them for the rigors of AP or IB classes in high school?
- Talk to their counselor about what classes might be best for them.