

College and Career Preparation Timetables

If you're unsure when to start talking about career exploration with your children, follow the suggested timetables below.

Key events or milestones are bolded—they require your special attention. Also, “post-secondary” refers to anything after high school.

| Middle School (Grades 6-8) |

The Goal is to Investigate Careers and their Connection to Education, and Plan High School Course Selections Accordingly.

- Continue to do everything you did in elementary school but use the *Next Steps Idaho* career readiness resources to guide exploration.
- Help your child develop the basic skills for academic and workplace success, including good attendance, attentiveness and pride in work.
- Discuss the duties and tasks, required skills and educational requirements of different occupations.
- Encourage your child to take interest assessments and review the results together.
- Remain aware of how your child is doing in school and scores on basic skills tests. What subjects are going well? Where are academic problems, if any? With the school counselor, establish instructional strategies to remedy areas of weakness.
- Formulate a high school graduation plan (by eighth grade) that will challenge your child and keep open future career possibilities. That means lots of math and science!