

# Get Your Child Ready for Work and for Life

Parents are a child's first and life-long teachers. Everything you do at home to build children's literacy has long-term effects on how well children are prepared to succeed in school and in life.

## Serve as your child's best coach and mentor:

- Foster your child's independence, and continue to be aware of and support your child's studies and after-school activities.
- Continue to stay involved with the school as your child progresses through high school.



## Know what your high school child needs to succeed:

- Look for programs designed to help students succeed in college and in a career—those that teach study skills, provide tutoring to enhance skills and knowledge and help students choose the right courses to succeed.
- Provide structure, show your child how to manage time for studies, activities, friends and family.

## Keep on reading

- Continue to make sure your child is reading
- Make sure books are available in which your child may have an interest. Students that have more reading materials available to them read more and do better in school.

This pamphlet was written to inform parents and educators in the local school districts about the importance of attendance. Each school district has its own policies. For more information on Attendance Policies in your school district, please contact the school your child attends.

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School Contact:

Parent's Guide

# Parent Power

Build the Bridge to Success



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## HIGH SCHOOL

High school is the training ground for college and work. Help prepare your child for college by encouraging him or her to take challenging courses, such as English, math (in particular algebra I and II, but also geometry, trigonometry, and calculus), foreign language, science (biology, chemistry and physics, for example) and history or social studies. To help prepare your child for work, you and your child should meet with the school guidance counselor to choose the best courses based on your child's career interests.

Illinois is a leader in integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) into the student's education. They were the first state in the US to begin requiring schools to use a set age appropriate standard for social and emotional development. As the parent, you can help your child socially and emotionally by talking to your child about the changes in their life. Talk to them about the physical and social changes they are experiencing.



### Partner with teachers and counselors

- Get to know your child's teachers and counselors.
- Continue to attend open houses or parent nights at school to meet your child's teachers.

### Communicate with teachers:

- Find out the best way and time to contact them.
- Ask for teachers' email addresses so you can contact them outside of school hours, as teachers are usually not available during school hours.
- Find out about websites where teachers may list class notes and homework assignments.

### Know that counselor's:

- Handle class registration and schedules.
- Can help if there are problems at home, such as divorce or illness, which could affect your child's school work.
- Have checklists of how to apply to college and where to get college financial aid.
- Can tell you when college entrance exams are given, the SAT and ACT.

### Consider safety:

- Pay attention to your child's behavior and friends.
- Tell your child to leave valuables at home and to keep belongings locked up, as theft is the most common school crime.
- Be aware if your child's grades drop or if your child is sad or angry.
- Talk to your child about any concerns you may have.
- Consult with counselors, social workers, school psychologists or other trained in and helpful with solving adolescents' problems.

### Stay involved with the school:

Be informed through your school's parent-teacher organization and the school newsletter or Web site. Continue to be an advocate for your child and other students in the process.

### Tips on paying for college:

Loans, grants and work-study aid are available for low-income students through Federal Student Aid program.



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### When your child turns 18:

Be aware that when your child turns 18 years old or enters a college or university at any age, the rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) transfer from you to your child. You may become informed about this law at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

If you want more information on how to help your child, go to:

- ☆ Illinois SEL Standards <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Social-Emotional-Learning.aspx>.
- ☆ FAFSA Website: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.



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