

The TRANSITION to High School

High School presents students with a variety of new opportunities and challenges. High Schools are generally larger in size, and students usually find that the coursework is more difficult. Students also find that they are expected to be more independent, more focused, and more responsible than they were in junior high. For the first time, students take courses that earn credits toward graduation. The courses they take and the grades they earn also, in part, determine their future educational options.

Most students feel excited and a little apprehensive as they start high school. Students wonder if they will fit in, whether or not they will like their teachers, and if they will be able to succeed in their courses. During the transition period, it is important that you keep the lines of communication open. Talk to your student, and let them know that you are there to help make the transition to high school as smooth as possible.

This is not only a transition period for students, it is also a time of transition for parents. With each passing year, you see your student becoming more self-sufficient and independent. You also know that in a few years, your child will be graduating.

During these high school years, it is very important that you continue to be involved in your students' life. You need to make sure that your child is doing well in school, and that they are making good choices and decisions. You also need to make sure that your student understands that with increased independence comes increased responsibility.

A Partnership for SUCCESS *Support and work with the administrators, teachers and counselors at your school. Like you, they want your child to have a GREAT high school experience.*

Support the school and the teachers. Children's attitudes about education and school are, to a great extent, determined by what their parents/guardians say and do. Your student needs to know that you support the teachers and the administrators at the school. Your child also needs to know that you consider education to be a top priority.

You can best convey your interest in education and your support of the school by doing the following:

1. Insist that your student be in school, on time, every day.
2. Expect your student to work up to his/her potential.
3. Talk about the importance of getting a good education.
4. Show an interest in what your student is studying.
5. Expect your student to follow the school rules.
6. Attend all open houses and parent-teacher conferences.
7. Show consistent interest in your student's academic progress.

Communicate with the school. In order to work with students effectively, schools need to be aware of situations or circumstances that could affect a student's attitude or performance. If your student has a health problem, a special need, or if there's a death or divorce (for example), contact the principal or counselor and explain the situation.

Work with the school to resolve problems. If your child complains about a class or a teacher, listen closely, and try to objectively determine what's going on. While doing so, please remember that part of your student's education is to learn how to succeed in subjects that he/she may not particularly enjoy. Also remember that it's important for high school students to learn how to adapt to different teachers, expectations and teaching styles. If there is a problem with a class or teacher, first try to help your student figure out how to deal with the situation on his/her own. If you feel that you need to intervene, contact the teacher and discuss your concerns. If there continues to be a problem, talk to your student's counselor.

A variety of roads can lead you to your career goal.

What Type of Education and Training do You Need for the Occupation you're Interested in?

- High School Diploma
- On-the-Job Training
- Apprenticeship
- Vocational/Career Technical Education
- One-year Certificate Program
- Two-year Associate's Degree
- Four-year Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctoral Degree

HELP YOUR CHILD PLAN FOR THE FUTURE...

Start by discussing the following questions.

- What are your favorite courses in school?
- What extracurricular activities do you enjoy most?
- Which of your special skills are most valuable to you? Why?
- What achievements make you most proud?
- What are your favorite hobbies and interests?
- What do you like to do with your free time?
- Which occupations interest you? (*Consider your skills, abilities and enjoyment*)
- What kind of education and training do you need? (*see above*)
- What kind of lifestyle do you want as an adult?

Career Pathway Facts

A Career Pathway system creates well-marked "paths" of sequenced courses, which provide both focus and direction to a student's learning experience. The pathway prepares the student for a goal-oriented future and puts purpose in learning. It offers a system of choice for each student.

Why Career Pathways?

Some day students will need to get jobs. They may go to college first or get advanced education in other ways. But students eventually enter the work force. The bottom line is that the good jobs of the future will go to people with skills. So students need to know what it takes to get there...and succeed.

How does the Student Benefit?

Your Pathway prepares you so that you know what it takes to get a good job. It...

- Helps you learn about hot, new career opportunities
- Helps you see how school subjects relate to the world of work
- Makes your classes more interesting
- Helps you figure out what you're good at doing
- Opens your mind to all kinds of careers in your chosen career major
- Shows you the education and skills needed to get the good jobs
- Makes your education fit you

What is My Role as the Student?

Do everything you can to focus on your future!

- Study hard and do your best in school and in extra curricular activities
- Take advantage of every opportunity to learn about the real world through job shadowing, work experiences, field trips, community service and career speakers
- Talk to your parents and other adults about their jobs
- Have a good work ethic—Go to school every day, on time, and with a good attitude...like a job
- Participate in career and college fairs
- Talk to your counselors and teachers.

What is a Career Pathway?

Career Pathways are broad groupings of careers that share similar characteristics and whose employment requirements call for many common interests, strengths