

Educational Options

Help your child determine how to best prepare for a career by exploring these educational options.

Career and Technology Education

Most high schools offer a variety of career and technology programs. To find out what programs are available in your district, contact your child's counselor.

Two-Year Community College

Community colleges provide affordable, career-oriented one- and two-year programs. Students can also start at a community college and then transfer to a four-year college.

Career and Trade School

Career and trade schools offer short-term training in a variety of career fields. Some programs last a few weeks; others take up to two years to complete.

Four-Year College

A four-year college education (bachelor's degree) can provide students with a wide range of career opportunities.

Apprenticeship

Apprentices learn a skilled trade through classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

Military

The U.S. military offers enlistees free job training in over 2,000 job specialties.

Hot Careers

Career fields that are growing provide greater opportunities. Here are three fast growing career fields.

Health Care – As our population ages, our health care needs increase. New technologies and medical advances will also continue to create new careers in health care.

Information Technology (IT) – IT refers to any computer related career, including systems analyst, software engineer, and computer support specialist. Our increasing use and dependence on technology will continue to create excellent career opportunities in the tech industry.

“Green” Careers – With today's increased interest in environmental issues, careers that protect the environment are some of the fastest growing.

*Approximately 80% of all careers require education or training beyond a general high school education.
Encourage your child to continue his/her education.*

Help Your Child Plan for a Career



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Parent InfoGuide

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634-21





Career Exploration

Below are seven career areas, along with some examples of each. Have your child choose an area that sounds interesting, and explore the career opportunities in that area together.

Business – accountant, administrative assistant, banker, business manager, paralegal, salesperson

Education – pre-school, elementary, middle school, high school, and special education teachers

Health Care – dental hygienist, dentist, medical assistant, medical lab technician, nurse, occupational therapist, paramedic, pharmacist, physical therapist, physician, radiologic technologist, veterinarian

Human Services – child care worker, counselor, fitness trainer, occupational therapist, psychologist, recreational therapist, social worker

Science and Technology – biologist, chemist, computer support specialist, engineer, environmental scientist, meteorologist, systems analyst

Skilled Trades – carpenter, construction worker, electrician, machinist, mechanic, plumber, welder

The Arts – actor, dancer, graphic artist, interior designer, musician, photographer, writer



Help Your Child Plan for a Career

In order to find a career that's a good match, students need to first think about who they are.

Help your child identify his/her interests, abilities, talents, and values by answering the following questions.

- ▶ Which school subjects does your child do well in and enjoy?
- ▶ Does your child like hands-on activities, desk-type activities, or is your child more of a "people person"?
- ▶ Will your child want to continue his/her education after high school? For one year? Two years? Four years?
- ▶ What natural talents does your child have?
- ▶ What things might be important to your child in a career (e.g., adventure, money, making a difference, working outside)?

Career Research

Once your child has chosen a career area to consider, help him/her learn about the careers in that field.

Research careers of interest

Numerous resources are available to help students learn about careers. One of the best resources for career information is the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Information from this book is available online at bls.gov/ooh.

Talk to people

Encourage your child to talk to friends and relatives about their careers. Also encourage your child to talk to people who know something about the career(s) he/she is considering. Counselors and teachers are a good place to start.

If possible, arrange for your child to job shadow someone for a day.



Get some related experience

The best way for your child to learn about a career is to do one or more of the following:

- ▶ take a related course in school.
- ▶ get involved in related extracurricular activities at school or through your local community center.
- ▶ volunteer or get a part-time job in a related field.