



Growing Up: 11th Grade

As your teen gets closer to graduation, it's important that you prepare your child for life on his/her own.

Life Skills

- ▶ Make sure your teen knows how to do laundry, iron a shirt, and sew on a button. Discuss car maintenance, insurance, and anything else you feel your child should know as he/she gets ready for adult life.
- ▶ Teach your teen some cooking fundamentals, and how to prepare a few simple, healthy dishes.
- ▶ Encourage independent problem solving. Being able to get their own problems resolved helps teens gain confidence and become more independent.

Financial Literacy

- ▶ If your teen has money from you or a part-time job, help create a budget to monitor spending.
- ▶ Have your teen "shadow" you as you pay bills. Discuss the different bills you pay and how you pay them (e.g., online, by check, autopay).
- ▶ Discuss the ins and outs of credit and debit cards, credit scores, and interest rates.

"Parenting is providing the conditions in which a child can realize his or her full human potential."

Gordon Neufeld



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Eleventh Grade

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Support Your Child

11th Grade



Parent Involvement Guide

College on the Horizon

If your student is thinking about going to college, the junior year is the time to investigate college options, take college tests, and make college visits.

College Options

Knowing what your student is looking for in a college will help you find a school that's a good fit. When looking at college options, consider the following: size, location, academic programs, admission requirements, and cost.

To help your student find the colleges that meet his/her criteria, go to bigfuture.collegeboard.org.

College Tests

All college bound juniors should take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring. For information on these tests go to act.org (ACT) and collegeboard.org (SAT). For advice on which test(s) your child should take, talk to your child's counselor.

College Visits

Making a college visit is the best way to find out if a college is going to be a good fit for your child. Visit college websites and check out their visitation options. Try to schedule your visit when school is in session, so that you can see what the campus is like when it's in "full swing."

College is an investment in the future!

Welcome to Eleventh Grade!

The junior year is an exciting and busy year. Students are well on their way to graduating, and they are beginning to seriously think about life after high school. Juniors need their parents to help them stay focused on academics and plan for their future.

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but eleventh grade is about more than academics. This year, students start taking real steps toward figuring out, and working toward, their lives after high school.

In this guide you will find information that will help you help your child have a successful junior year. Included in this guide are:

- ▶ tips and advice on how you can support and encourage academic success.
- ▶ ways to support your teen as he/she starts thinking about a career and college.
- ▶ tips for building life skills and financial literacy.

Your involvement and support are key to your child's success!



Succeeding in the Eleventh Grade



Academic Success

Here are some ways that you can help your junior succeed in his/her classes.

Monitor Academic Progress

- ▶ Make sure your teen is on track to graduate on time. If you have any questions or concerns regarding graduation requirements (i.e., courses, credits, state tests), talk to your child's counselor.
- ▶ Your junior probably doesn't need a lot of oversight from you when it comes to schoolwork, but you should continue to monitor his/her academic progress (e.g., see all report cards and midterm reports).

Help with Time Management

- ▶ Juniors often have a lot to keep track of. Encourage your child to use a planner to record assignments, tests, etc., and to use a wall calendar to keep track of major events, after school commitments, and project deadlines.
- ▶ Monitor activities and jobs. Make sure your child isn't spending too much time on social networking sites, playing video games, or watching TV. If your teen has a part-time job, insist that he/she not work too many hours or work too late.
- ▶ Encourage your child to set aside time to relax, to periodically unplug from technology, and to get plenty of sleep.

Provide Support

- ▶ Talk to your child about what's happening in school and be a good listener. Pay attention not only to the words your child uses, but also to your child's body language, attitude, and mood.
- ▶ Provide encouragement and support, and let your child know that you are always available to help.

Plan for the Future

Most careers today require education and/or training beyond high school. Help your teen plan and prepare for the future by exploring the following educational options:

- ▶ **Four-year colleges** offer numerous majors and programs. A four-year education (bachelor's degree) can open doors and prepare students for a wide variety of careers.
- ▶ **Two-year colleges** (community colleges) provide affordable, career-oriented one- and two-year programs. Students can also transfer credits from a community college to a four-year college.
- ▶ **Career and trade schools** offer short-term training for numerous careers (e.g. cosmetology, dental assisting). Career and trade schools can be expensive, and not all of them are reputable.
- ▶ **The military** offers qualified applicants free job training in over 2,000 job specialties.
- ▶ **Apprenticeships** offer training in the skilled trades (e.g. carpentry, roofing) through classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

While there are many factors that determine the kinds of opportunities a student will have in life, the biggest determining factor is education. Encourage your child to continue his/her education beyond high school.

If your child is looking for information to help him/her choose a career or college major, one of the best resources is the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. www.bls.gov/ooh