

ROADS to SUCCESS

Grade 9

Education after High School

Family Newsletter

The College Question

Roads to Success is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more info, visit www.roadstosuccess.org.

Did you know?

Some colleges and tech schools have few or no requirements to get in. But not all of their students make it to graduation! Students should figure out their chances of success before they enroll. Ask:

- What remedial courses will I be required to take if I'm not ready for college work?
- What percentage of students graduate?

Why go to college? Better pay and more job opportunities top most kids' lists. There are also advantages that can't be measured—meeting new people, living on your own, learning more about the world.

There are colleges to match every personality and background—from small schools where students get lots of attention to large schools with big-city flavor. And there are other options—community colleges, trade schools, and training programs—to help students get ready for the world of work.

Things your student should consider:

Why am I going? What career am I planning for? How does college fit into my plans?



Am I prepared to do the work? College courses build on what you learned in high school. If you don't have A's and B's now, you should know what to do to improve. You'll also need to know how to study without prodding from your parents or teachers.

What other choices should I consider? Am I interested in a career that doesn't require college? What trade schools or apprenticeships can help me get the job I want?

What steps do I need to take next? Talk to people who have the careers you're interested in. Research to find out what education is required.

Plan on taking tests required for college admission (the PSAT in grade 10, the SAT or ACT in grade 11).

Visit colleges and apply to your top choices in the fall of your senior year.

Grade by Grade: Financial Aid

The news is full of stories about the rising costs of higher education, but there are still ways to make college affordable.

Some community colleges cost less than \$3,000 a year. And some very expensive colleges offer generous financial help to make it possible for students from all backgrounds to attend.

Here are a few ways to help pay for school:

Scholarships Some schools and organizations give students money for achievement—like sports ability or good grades. Other scholarships are awarded based on a family's financial need. Scholarships don't need to be repaid.

Grants Grants are based on financial need

& don't need to be repaid.

Work/study & Internships Students get paid for working, often in the subjects they're studying.

Loans Students can borrow money at a low interest rate, which must be paid back (a certain amount each month) once they've left school.

For more info, visit www.ed.gov/finaid/ or your local library or school guidance office.