

## Every Year in High School

### Students

#### To Do:

- Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aid using *FAFSA4caster* at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov), and continue to save for college.
- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.), 3 years of mathematics, and 3 years of science, and many require 2 years of a foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.
- Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.

#### To Explore:

- Check out *KnowHow2Go: The Four Steps to College*, which suggests some actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school. The online version of the brochure is at [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org).
- Get answers to common questions about college: Read the "college q&a" at [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov) (click on the "TOOLS" tab and then "I'm Going Guide").
- Learn about managing your money in the "Financial Literacy" section of [www.studentaid.ed.gov/preparing](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/preparing).

### Parents

#### To Do:

- Continue to talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades—stay involved.
- Encourage your child to take Advanced Placement or other challenging classes.
- Add to your child's college savings account regularly.

#### To Explore:

- Address your concerns about whether your child can or should go to college in the "parents/family" section of [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov).
- Explore [www.studentaid.ed.gov/parent](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/parent) for information on academic preparation, homeschooling, financial literacy, saving, and borrowing for college.
- Learn from *Help Your Child Improve in Test-Taking* at [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents) (click on "Helping Your Child" and then "Archived publications").

