

Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most scholars and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support your child and give him or her the best options.

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Summer

- **Attend your annual commitment meeting** with your scholar and Crossroads Counselor. Commitment meetings help scholars stay on track and share goals and aspirations with the people who can help them be accountable to their success.
- **Discuss your scholar's SPICE program with them.** Talk about how it connects with possible career options and the college steps necessary to get there.
- **Get the facts about what college costs.** You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading [Understanding College Costs](#).
- **Explore financial aid options.** These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about how [financial aid can make college affordable](#).

Fall

- **Make sure your scholar meets with their Crossroads and school counselors.** This meeting is especially important this year as your junior starts to engage in the college application process. Learn more about the [counselor's role in applying to college](#).
- **Attend Crossroads College Workshop #1** to learn about the college application process and continue the conversation around what type of college will be the best fit for your scholar.
- **Attend college fairs** and college-preparation presentations hosted by your high school and by college representatives.
- **Help your scholar stay organized.** Work with your 11th-grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time-management tips, see [8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time](#).
- **Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October.** This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#). (Crossroads SAT Prep begins in spring semester.)
- **Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps your high school student stay motivated and focused.

Winter

- **Review PSAT/NMSQT results together** by logging in to the [student score reporting portal](#). Your child's score report shows what they should work on to get ready for college; lists Advanced

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Placement courses that might be a good match for them; and connects them to [free, personalized SAT practice on Khan Academy](#) based on their results.

- **Attend Crossroads College Workshop #2**, where scholars and parents will learn about SAT Prep (free to scholars) at Crossroads and gain insights into smart college search and application tracking.
- **Help your scholar prepare for the SAT by ensuring they make it to each SAT prep class and practice test.** Many juniors take the SAT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See [which other tests](#) your high school junior may need to take.
- **Discuss taking challenging courses next year.** Taking honors courses or college-level courses like Advanced Placement as a senior can help your child prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about [advanced classes](#).
- **Encourage your junior to consider taking SAT Subject Tests.** Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about [SAT Subject Tests](#).
- **Encourage your child to take AP Exams.** If your junior takes AP or other advanced classes, have him or her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the [AP Program](#).
- **Encourage your scholar to apply to Crossroads' Corporate Sponsorship Program (CSP)** if their career field of interest is represented among available internships. The CSP is a great way to gain professional skills and experience through a paid summer internship and mentoring experience.

Spring

- **Search together for colleges that meet your scholar's needs.** Once you have an idea of the qualities your child is looking for in a college, help him or her enter these criteria into [College Search](#) to create a list of colleges to consider applying to.
- **Encourage your scholar to attend Crossroads' career skills workshop(s).** While these are offered as part of the Corporate Sponsorship Program, they are available to all scholars and will help hone resumes, networking skills, etc.
- **Help your child research scholarships.** This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. Learn more through College Board's [Scholarship Search](#). You are encouraged to see your school or Crossroads counselor for more scholarship search tools to avoid scams.
- **Attend college fairs and financial aid events, including the NACAC College Fair at the Convention Center.** These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions. Your child can ask their Crossroads or school counselor how to find events in your area. Check out the [College Fair Checklist](#) for more information.
- **Help your scholar make summer plans.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your high schooler look into [summer learning programs](#) or find a job or internship.

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- **Visit colleges together.** Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
- **Encourage your scholar to sign up for Crossroads' spring college tour.** This is a great way to see new colleges and discuss college search and preferences with peers. Look to #CrossTalk cards after the tour to get the follow up conversation going!