

High School Planning Checklist

For 9th grade students

EXPLORE

✓ Explore colleges and careers.

- ☐ Talk about your future dreams and plans with your family, friends and other adults and set goals.
- ☐ Ask others about their careers and the education/training necessary.
- ☐ Think about what is most important to you in a college.
- ☐ Visit a college campus on a field trip with your school or your family.
- ☐ Explore colleges online.

✓ Learn about paying for college.

- ☐ Learn about financial aid and attend workshops with your family.
- ☐ Set up and regularly contribute to a college savings account.
- ☐ Search for local scholarships that you can apply for.

PLAN

✓ Do well in school.

- ☐ Set goals for the year.
- ☐ Go to all of your classes.
- ☐ Discover how you learn best.
- ☐ Learn how to make outlines and do research.
- ☐ Ask for help and use online resources.
- ☐ Turn in all assignments.
- ☐ Read-it makes you smarter!

✓ Take challenging classes.

- ☐ Challenge yourself with honors or advanced classes.
- ☐ Explore ways to earn college credit while you're still in high school.
- ☐ Plan to take math all 4 years in high school.
- ☐ Take a foreign/world language course if offered.

ENGAGE

✓ Get involved.

- ☐ Try something new!
- ☐ Get involved in school and community activities.
- ☐ Volunteer in your community.
- ☐ Make a plan for summer.
- ☐ Find a mentor – a parent, teacher, counselor, coach, trusted adult or older student that you can talk to.

✓ Make good choices.

- ☐ Choose to hang out with friends that share positive goals and interests.
- ☐ Be safe online and on your phone.
- ☐ Avoid risky behaviors like drinking, doing drugs, and having unprotected sex.
- ☐ Be kind; treat others with respect.