

With a few simple steps, your child can be college bound!

i-am-the-one.com

You can help your child make it to college.

You just have to encourage him or her – and you need to keep on top of a couple of things during the middle and high school years. Here's what you can do:

Meet with your son's or daughter's school counselor at least once a year.

Here are a couple of questions you can ask the counselor:

- What can I do right now to help my child prepare for education beyond high school?
- Is my son or daughter taking the right classes to pursue his or her career goals?
- What is my child's grade point average, and how does that compare to students getting into college?

Keep track of your child's grades. Every class counts!

- Look at every single report card. If there's a low grade in a class, find out why and make sure your child is working toward fixing it.
- Make it a weekly habit to ask your child what's going on in school. The weekend is a great time to do this. Ask, "What tests do you have this upcoming week? What quizzes? Any special projects? How can I help you out?"

Make sure they're taking the right college entrance tests.

- To apply to college, students should take PSATs in their sophomore or junior year of high school, which will help prepare them for the SATs or ACTs in their junior and early senior years.
- You may be eligible for assistance in paying for entrance tests. Talk to your child's school counselor about getting a payment waiver.

Fill out the forms they need to get scholarships and grants.

- There are millions of dollars out there for students who need help paying for college. Parents or guardians will have to help by filling out some paperwork. Just remember, a few minutes of your time can change your child's entire life.

Your encouragement.

Sometimes, that's all they need to get into college.

For more parent resources, go to i-am-the-one.com and click on "parents." Or simply make an appointment to visit your son's or daughter's school counselor. With the right grades and planning, your child can go to great places after high school.



YOU can help make this happen.

In addition to i-am-the-one.com, check out these online resources for more information about how to help your child plan for college and beyond:

FAFSA

www.fafsa.gov

This site gives you information and instructions for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be done each year to receive federal financial aid.

FAFSA4caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Use the "forecaster" to get an early estimate of your child's eligibility for federal student aid.

Virginia Wizard

www.vawizard.org

The Wizard can help students understand their skills and interests, choose a career, and find a college that offers the program they need to pursue their career goals.

SCHEV

www.schev.edu

This site provides a listing of public and private 2- and 4-year colleges and universities in Virginia, financial aid resources, and more.

This handout was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.