

# Postsecondary Planning Timeline for Parents and Families



## 12th Grade

### First Quarter

#### Action Steps

- Review your child's schedule and course history to ensure your child has everything needed for graduation, scholarships, and their postsecondary plan.
- Meet with your child's counselor if you have questions or concerns about your child meeting graduation or postsecondary requirements.
- Review your child's college list with him/her to ensure it is balanced and fits well with your child. Utilize the Scoir Parent Profile to assist with this process.
- Assist with college application preparation as needed, including editing application components, essay proofreading, and deadline monitoring.
- Start gathering important documents including your previous year's tax return to complete FAFSA, which opens October 1st. You will also need to create an FSA ID to be ready to apply with your child and electronically sign the FAFSA.
- Attend a FAFSA workshop for guided assistance.
- Assist your child with completion of the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) used for the Bright Futures Scholarship as well as other state opportunities, which opens October 1st.
- Attend M-DCPS' College Month Virtual Workshop series in October.
- Attend open house and senior parent night events at your child's high school to receive important information about senior year, graduation, and postsecondary planning.
- Assist your child with connecting with disability support services at the postsecondary institution or program in which he/she is enrolling if they have an IEP or 504 plan.

#### Resources

- [College Board for Parents/Guardians](#)
- [Mapping Your Future- Parents & Families](#)
- [FAFSA Checklist](#)
- [CollegeBoard-Searching and Applying for Scholarships Webinar](#)
- [Getting Financial Aid](#)
- [Getting In to College](#)
- [4 Things to Consider in Choosing a College or Career School](#)
- [Creating and Using the FSA ID](#)
- [How Parents Navigate and Influence Their Kids' Post-High School Education](#)
- [The College Application Process](#)
- [College Essay Guy: College Application and Essay Resources](#)



### Second Quarter

#### Action Steps

- Continue to discuss your child's college list with him/her to ensure it is balanced and fits well. Remember that the Scoir Parent Profile may assist with this communication.
- Monitor your child's progress with meeting application deadlines in December/January.
- Review your child's first quarter grades to ensure he/she maintains good study habits to remain on track for successful completion of senior year.
- Ensure submission of the FAFSA is completed.
- Work with your child to complete the CSS profile if it is required by schools.
- Begin researching college funding sources including federal and private student loans.
- Make plans to attend the Miami National College Fair.

#### Resources

- [CSS Profile Tutorial](#)
- [CAP Paying for College Webpage](#)
- [CollegeBoard- Find Your Scholarship Matches](#)
- [8 Easy Steps for Parents Completing the FAFSA Form](#)



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### Third Quarter

#### Action Steps

- Help your child with their final decision as admission decisions start to be received.
- Review financial aid letters and packages with your child to help them choose the one that best fits your family.
- Review housing arrangements and submit deposits by school deadline.
- Attend the Miami National College Fair with your child to engage with a variety of national and international institutions.



#### Resources

- [Why You Should Consider Financial Fit in Choosing a College](#)
- [Borrowing: The Parent's Role](#)



### Fourth Quarter

#### Action Steps

- Attend financial aid awareness workshops to better understand how financial aid and scholarships received will impact your child's financial obligation for their postsecondary plan.
- Assist your child with comparing financial aid packages and making their final enrollment decision.
- Follow-up with your child about the submission of additional documents to your chosen school as needed. These may include residency forms, immunization documents, and orientation registration.
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes to anyone who assisted with the college admissions process.
- Celebrate your child as he/she transitions to their postsecondary life.
- Support your child with connecting with disability support services at the postsecondary institution or program in which he/she is enrolling if they have an IEP or 504 plan.



#### Resources

- [13 Things to Know When Evaluating Your Financial Aid Award Letter](#)
- [Direct PLUS Loans for Parents](#)
- [Your Financial Aid Award Letter - Review, Evaluate, Appeal Webinar - English](#)
- [Your Financial Aid Award Letter - Review, Evaluate, Appeal Webinar - Spanish](#)
- [Your Financial Aid Award Letter - Review, Evaluate, Appeal Webinar - Creole](#)

