

SOUTH DAKOTA

STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



PARENT CHECKLIST OF AN 12TH GRADE STUDENT

Summer

- Encourage your student to find internship opportunities.** If financially possible, this can positively impact college applications or future employment applications. Internships are also important for career exploration.
- Encourage your student to seek out volunteer opportunities.** Volunteer work can help students learn new skills, gain experience, make new contacts, and show potential employers that they are a caring individual who also has drive and ambition.
- Plan college visits to colleges that your student is seriously considering.**
- Support your student in filling out college applications.**
- Gather required financial information for Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** Check the SFEC College and Career Resource Guide FAFSA checklist for parents.
- Create a realistic timeline with your student to stay on track and meet all college and career deadlines.**

Fall

- Make sure your student meets with the school counselor.** The student will need to make sure he/she is on track to graduate.
- Encourage your student to take career assessments and career exploration.** A free online assessment is Mynextmove.org.
- Encourage your student to see if their interests match the lifestyle they want.** Use Reality Check, a free online assessment, to figure this out.
- Encourage your student to retake ACT, SAT, or ASVAB, if necessary.**
- Assist your student in completing college and/or career pathway applications.**
- Encourage your student to participate in College Application Week.** Even if your student is unsure about future plans, it is an opportunity to apply to in-state colleges for FREE.

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Fall continued

- Block out time with your student in applying for scholarships even if he/she is unsure about future plans.**
- Complete the FAFSA with your student on or after October 1.** Even if your student is unsure about his/her future plans, you will be informed early about the amount of financial aid available to your student which could impact the student's decision to attend college.
- Plan college visits to your student's top college choices.**

Winter

- Discuss with your student about college acceptance letters they have received.** Use College Scoreboard to help narrow down college choices.
- Review the financial aid award from each school.**
- Encourage your student to meet with a Career Launch Career Advisor.** If your child is unsure about his/her future, the Career Launch program can provide additional career exploration, help students determine which type of training or pathway is the best fit, and other employment opportunities and resources to support the student and his/her future.

Spring

- Help your student finalize his/her decision for college or career pathway.**
- Celebrate!**

Sources: MyFuture.com; Educationquest.org; Collegeboard.org; MyNextMove.org; SDDL R Reality Check; collegescorecard.ed.gov

