



# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP IN HIGH SCHOOL: ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

High school is an important time as teens work toward graduation and start planning for life after school. This resource is designed to help you stay connected to your child's progress—not just in classes, but in building the skills, experiences, and goals that will prepare them for the future.

Inside, you'll find helpful questions to ask teachers, counselors, and school staff so you can better understand how your teen is doing, what support they might need, and how they're preparing for what comes next—whether that's college, career, or another path.

When families stay in the loop and partner with schools, students are more likely to stay on track and feel ready for the road ahead.

Build a powerful partnership with your child's teachers by keeping up to date on...



**Learning and Growth**

**Pathways to Graduation**

**Preparing for Life After High School**

**Developing Independence**

## ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed for families to ask teachers and school staff to better understand their teen's high school experience and readiness for the future. These questions can help you learn how your teen is progressing toward graduation, what steps they're taking to prepare for life after high school, and what skills they're building along the way. Use these conversation prompts to monitor and support your teen's growth and ensure they feel confident and prepared for what's next in both their academic and personal journey.

### LEARNING AND GROWTH



- ✓ What skills or knowledge is my teen expected to have by the end of this year? Are they on track to meet those goals?
- ✓ How is my teen doing with the material in their classes? Are they grasping the key concepts?
- ✓ Are there any specific strengths or challenges my teen has demonstrated in their learning so far?
- ✓ Are there any areas where my teen might benefit from extra support, such as tutoring or enrichment opportunities?
- ✓ How is my teen managing their workload, and are they staying on track?
- ✓ How do they respond to challenges or setbacks in their learning, and what steps do they take to overcome them?

### PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

- ✓ What specific courses and credits are required for my teen to graduate from this school?
- ✓ Is my teen meeting the academic benchmarks for each grade level to stay on track for graduation?
- ✓ Does my teen need to meet any service learning, attendance, or portfolio requirements in addition to academics?
- ✓ Are there deadlines or checkpoints we should be aware of for staying on pace to meet graduation requirements?
- ✓ What is my teen's current GPA, and how does it affect their graduation path or future post-secondary opportunities?
- ✓ Are there any required exams or assessments my teen must pass to graduate (e.g., state tests, senior projects, etc.)?



## PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



- ✓ Has my teen started thinking seriously about what they want to do after high school—college, career, military, or another path?
- ✓ What should my teen be doing, beginning in 9th grade, to build a strong college application profile?
- ✓ Is my teen enrolled in any courses or programs that align with their future interests or goals (e.g., dual credit, career and technical education, internships)?
- ✓ What steps should my teen be taking this year to stay on track with college or job applications, financial aid, or other deadlines?
- ✓ Does my teen have access to a counselor or advisor to help them make a personalized plan for after graduation?

## DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE

- ✓ How is my teen learning to manage their time, assignments, and responsibilities without constant reminders?
- ✓ What kinds of school opportunities—such as clubs, jobs, or leadership roles—can help my teen grow in independence and confidence?
- ✓ Which school-based programs or resources support teens in developing practical life skills like budgeting, planning, or goal setting?
- ✓ Are there school projects or assignments that allow my teen to make choices or pursue their own interests?
- ✓ How can I balance giving my teen more independence while still staying involved in their education and well-being?

Your involvement in your teen's high school experience doesn't require having all the answers, but asking the right questions and staying connected does make a significant impact. By being actively engaged in their progress, you're reinforcing that their education—and future—matters. The conversations you have with teachers, mentors, and your teen today can help shape a path that builds independence, resilience, and the skills needed for success beyond high school.

