

Roads to Success is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more information about Roads to Success, please visit our website: www.roadstosuccess.org.

Did you know? Just over half of students who start full-time four-year bachelor's degree programs finish the programs – in at least six years.* But some schools have much better graduation rates than others. To see how your school stacks up, visit www.collegeresults.org.

*SOURCE:
National Center for Higher Education Management
IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey 2009

<http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/?level=nation&mode=map&state=0&submeasure=27>

College: Things to Know Before You Go

As parents, we often warn kids how tough the next step will be. Middle school kids hear this about high school. High school kids hear this about college. Knowing **how** college is different from high school helps students cope with academic demands, manage time, and thrive in a new environment. Here are some tips to help students get ready for the next step.

College has its own culture. Ask college students you know to describe their experience. Check out these websites for more info about campus life:

- www.firstinthefamily.org
- www.collegeview.com/campuslife/
- www.fastweb.com/student-life
- www.quintcareers.com/first-year_success.html

College students spend a lot less time in class, and a lot more time studying outside of class. High

school students spend about 30 hours a week in class. College students spend about half that. But don't be too quick to relax. For every hour in class, college students should spend two or three hours studying outside of class.



Managing time wisely is key to doing well. Get a calendar or day planner and use it. Write in your schedule of classes and assignment due dates. Create time each day for study.

Some of the important stuff happens away from the classroom. From lacrosse to literature, pizza to politics, there's a group on campus to suit every interest. Don't miss the

chance to learn something, develop leadership skills, and make new friends.

Help is available — all you have to do is ask. Colleges are in the business of helping students adjust to campus life. Freshman orientation will help you figure out who to talk to, and where to go for what. If you live on campus, your RA (Resident Advisor) may be right down the hall to answer questions as they come up.

If you're the first in your family to attend college, or are struggling academically or financially, check to see if your school has a special support program for which you qualify.

Life is easier when you can make a budget, balance a checkbook, and do your own laundry. Ask a family member to teach you before you leave home. You'll be glad you did!

Grade by Grade

12th-graders in Roads to Success learn about life after graduation, whether they're headed for school or work. "Next Steps" lessons explore common concerns and identify who solves what problem on campus or in the community. Finally, students find out how to get ahead in the work world and how to solve problems in big bureaucracies — from college to the cable company.