Your Guide to High School Success

How to win a
million dollars

10 EASY STEPS
TO SUCCESS

Test case-
How to make the grade

Get with the lingo-
INDIANA
GQE, CORE40

A partnership of the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Hey Sophomore!

High school is the most important time to think about and plan for what you’ll choose to do after you graduate. OnTrack can help. With lots of information about careers, college and how to get there, this mini-magazine is full of great suggestions and links to helpful resources.

To make sure you get the foundation and stay “on-track” for a great future, Indiana has among the very best academic standards in the country. That means you have the opportunity to be among the best-prepared and best-educated students in the nation. Go to www.learnmoreindiana.org/academicstandards to see what you can expect to know and be able to do by the end of 10th grade.

The future is what you make of it. We want you to have every opportunity to make your dreams come true. Education plays a big part in making that happen - so check out the helpful tips inside have a great year!

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5 ways to make the most of your sophomore year ........................................ 3
Get with the program: Indiana Core 40 ............................................................. 6
From abc to A²+B² to GQE .......................................................... 8
List it: What to do to succeed your sophomore year ................................. 10
Test Case: Feel like life is one big test? .................................................. 11
Thinking about college?: 3 things you can do now ......................... 12
Test-drive a career: 4 ways to learn more ............................................. 15
Parents: 8 great ways to help your student succeed ................ Back Cover

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
Indiana Department of Education
Indiana Commission for Higher Education

If you have questions call Learn More College Connection at 800.992.2076
www.learnmoreindiana.org
Freshman year is all about adjusting to high school. Your sophomore year is different. The following fast, practical tips may help you avoid a sophomore slump and achieve success—or at least survival.

1. **GO TO SCHOOL.**
   It’s more important than ever that you go to every class, every day.
   For one thing, you’ll get better grades and learn more if you actually attend class. You can’t learn if you’re not there. Second, you need to follow your high school’s attendance policies to earn enough credits to graduate.
   Finally, a poor attendance record at school could hurt you. Employers want to hire workers they can count on, and they often check on your school attendance record to determine if you’re the kind of person who will show up for work.

2. **GET ORGANIZED.**
   Use a planner or calendar to keep track of all your major assignments and tests.
   Each Sunday evening, take 30 minutes or so to plan your weekly schedule, including homework, activities, work and time with friends. Then stick to it, working according to your plan.

3. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND STUDY.**
   By now, you know that high school is tougher than anything you’ve ever done before. Teachers are assigning more work and expecting more out of you. Don’t blow off homework—just do it, and you’ll earn better grades and be better prepared for tests and quizzes.
   Try out different study methods, too. Use index cards to organize your notes, key definitions and events, and review the material you need to know. Recopy your notes from class to create an outline. Take time to really read assignments. For more great study tips, visit www.learnmoreindiana.org.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF.

College admissions officers advise students to take the most challenging classes they can. That means that while grades are important, it’s also important to stretch yourself.

Challenging courses reap big rewards. Core 40 is a rigorous set of courses that prepares you for college and work after high school. Core 40 will provide the foundation you need to succeed at whatever goals you have. Reach even higher and go for Core 40 with Technical or Academic Honors. You may need extra help, but that’s OK – almost everyone does, and all high schools offer tutoring options. Accept the challenge to achieve more.

GET HELP.

If you’re worried about your grades or test scores—or know you should be worried—don’t wait to ask for help.

At the first sign of trouble, talk to your parents and teachers. Whether you’re struggling with homework or aren’t doing well on quizzes, talk to your teacher and ask for specific advice on how to improve. If you are falling behind on credits, talk to your school counselor about opportunities to get you back on track.

Remember: The longer you wait to deal with a problem, the more difficult it may be to fix, so it’s important to speak up immediately. Don’t assume the issue will go away if you ignore it. It won’t.

YOUR HOTLINE TO BETTER GRADES

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology’s Homework Hotline provides free math and science homework help to Indiana students. You can call the Homework Hotline from 7-10 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Savings Time) toll free at 1-877-ASK-ROSE. It’s a free service and a free call.

Ask your school counselor about homework clubs, study tables, or where to go for free or low-cost tutoring in your community.

FROM THE REAL WORLD

“Take all the classes you can in high school that will prepare you for college. The stuff you do in high school can take you a lot further than you might think. Go for the highest diploma and most challenging classes you can, and go on from there.”

Ashley Brandley, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana student, Richmond
**5 MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOURSELF**

1. **Spend time with your (true) friends.** High school is supposed to be fun, right? Make sure the friends you choose are good for you. Friends help friends. Friends don’t put your health or reputation at risk. If your friends are trying to talk you into doing things you know could have a negative impact on your life, or if they are talking about dropping out of school, put a little distance between yourself and them and look around for new social opportunities.

2. **Don’t start bad habits.** Students who drink or smoke put themselves at risk. Drinking, smoking and other drugs are associated with death, sickness and disability. If you never start, you’ll never have to worry about how to stop.

3. **Find a non-chemical way to handle stress.** Life isn’t always easy, but learning to cope with stress is a skill you’ll need for a lifetime. Using drugs and alcohol won’t work. Not only is abusing them illegal, they can lead to jail, addiction and ruined relationships, which are a lot more stressful than whatever you’re facing now. Find a stress-busting technique that works for you: taking a walk, doing deep breathing, listening to or playing music, participating in sports, or even dancing around your room to your favorite song. There are many harmless ways to make you feel better.

4. **Turn off the tube.** Students who watch more than three hours of television a day are at higher risk of failure. Read, study, exercise, dream about the future, volunteer—whatever it is, it’s likely to be a better use of your time. The same can be true of computer use. It’s OK to surf, chat and blog, but set a specific amount of time—say, an hour after dinner—and stick to it. See “Surf Safely” for more helpful tips.

5. **Find helpful adults.** Besides your parents, caring adults outside of your family can make life so much easier. Good places to find people who can help you when the going gets rough are as close as your local religious groups, community organizations, or even at a part-time job.

Indiana has a Web site just for students. You’ll find great ideas to help you prepare for the future, quizzes to help you discover what your interests are and lots of information on colleges and careers. [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org). Check it out.

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**SURF SAFELY**

The Internet is an amazing tool for school, socializing and mindless surfing. But it’s also a big, big cyber-world out there that’s full of ways to get into trouble. You have to be smart and streetwise to stay safe.

You’ve probably heard stories about people who have gotten into serious trouble online, either because they are looking at Web sites they shouldn’t, or because they’ve met people online who persuaded them to do things they shouldn’t.

**Be smart:**

1. Follow your parents’ rules about computer use (or risk losing your privileges).

2. Never, ever give out personal information online. Don’t reveal your full name, home address, phone number, Social Security number, passwords, names of your family members or credit card numbers.

3. Make sure that your online identity (e-mail address or screen name) doesn’t identify whether you are male or female. In chat rooms, use a name that is different from your e-mail address so that no one can contact you after you leave the chat room.

4. Be aware that what you post on the Internet can follow you for a long, long time. Anything you write or any pictures you post on the web are available for all to see...not just friends. What will your parents, a future employer, or college admissions officer see when they Google your name?

For more information on Internet safety, visit [www.safeteens.com](http://www.safeteens.com).
Core 40 is a solid set of high school courses in the core subjects of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Your success. Your future. You know what you want out of life. So how are you going to get it? The answer is Core 40.

Core 40 helps you more
You need Core 40 – a set of rigorous high school courses – because with it, you’ll be better prepared for college, the workforce and the real world.

Core 40 pays you more
By completing Core 40, you’ll have a better chance of getting into college and earning a degree. And higher education pays: On average, college graduates earn $1 million more over a lifetime than high school graduates.

Core 40 gives you more
• Career options
• Skills for the jobs of the future
• Preparation for college success
• Opportunities for scholarships and financial aid

Don’t settle for anything less than Core 40 to get the future you want and deserve.

For more information, contact your counselor and visit www.learnmoreindiana.org.

The more you learn, the more you earn

The more education you have, the more money you’re likely to earn over a lifetime. Here’s what the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that full-time workers, ages 25 to 64, will earn over a lifetime, according to the level of education they complete:

- Professional degree (such as a law degree or medical degree) $4.4 million
- Doctorate (such as a Ph.D., earned by scientists) $3.4 million
- Master’s degree (such as an M.B.A., used in business, or an M.S., earned by many teachers) $2.5 million
- Bachelor’s degree (from a four-year college or university) $2.1 million
- Associate’s degree (a two-year degree from a community college or university) $1.6 million
- High school $1.2 million
- Less than high school $1 million

Source: 2000 U.S. Census
Students must:

• Complete all requirements for Core 40.
• Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
• Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits.
• Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
• Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma.
• Have a grade point average of “B” or above.
• Complete one of the following:
  - Two Advanced Placement courses and corresponding AP exams
  - Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits
  - One Advanced Placement course and corresponding AP exam and academic, transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in 3 college credits
  - Score 1200 or higher combined SAT math and critical reading*
  - Score a 26 composite ACT
  - An International Baccalaureate Diploma.
* SAT requirements will be modified with the addition of the writing section.

Students must:

• Complete all requirements for Core 40.
• Complete a career-technical program (related sequence of 8-10 career-technical credits).
• Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma.
• Have a grade point average of “B” or above.
• Complete state-recognized certification requirements* by completing two of the options below, one of which must be A or B:
  A. Take WorkKeys, an industry-driven assessment, and score at or above a designated level on each of the three core readiness subject areas (mathematical reasoning, reading for information, and locating information)
  B. Technical, transferable dual high school/college credit courses resulting in 6 college credits**
  C. Professional career internship or cooperative education**
  D. A state-approved, industry-recognized certification**
* Anticipated State Board action to be complete fall 2006.
** Must be in the career-technical program area of study.

Core 40 becomes Indiana’s required high school curriculum in fall 2007. Students entering high school at that time will be expected to complete Core 40 as a graduation requirement. In order to graduate with anything less than this important preparation, a student must formally opt-out with parental consent.
From abc to $A^2 + B^2$ to ISTEP+ GQE

What you learn in high school prepares you for college, the workforce and the real world. Solid reading, writing and math skills are “must haves” for a successful future. To ensure you master these basics on your way to earning a high school diploma, you are required to pass the ISTEP+ Graduation Qualifying Exam – or GQE.

WHAT’S ON THE GQE?
Based on Indiana’s Academic Standards, the GQE covers:
- English/language arts through Grade 9.
- Mathematics through Grade 8, plus Algebra I.

WHEN IS THE GQE?
- You take it for the first time the fall of your sophomore year.
- The test takes about six hours total (over three days).
- You have to be present for testing all three days. There are no make-ups.

WHAT IF I DON’T PASS?
- Ask your teacher and guidance counselors about extra help in areas that you didn’t pass.
- You can retake the test at least four more times (September and March of your junior and senior years).
- Once you pass a specific part of the test, you don’t have to retake that section.
- See below for other ways to meet the GQE requirement.

WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS?
- Instructional or testing accommodations in the Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan can be followed.
- Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) can also receive accommodations for the test.
- Talk to your parents and guidance counselors.

WAYS TO MEET THE GQE REQUIREMENT
Because reading, writing and math are fundamental to everything you’ll do in life, you must meet the GQE requirement to demonstrate basic understanding of English/language arts and math before you graduate.

The GQE requirement can be met in the following ways:
1. Pass the GQE.
2. Fulfill the requirements of one of the following official GQE Waivers:
   - Core 40 waiver
   - Evidence-based waiver
   - Work-readiness waiver

Go to www.IndianaGQE.com to learn more.
BE PREPARED.
Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework, complete assignments and ask your teacher for help when you need it. This will keep you on the path for GQE success.

GET PLENTY OF SLEEP.
Go to bed a little earlier so you get a good night’s sleep. Being well-rested will give you an extra boost of energy for test day.

TAKE A BREAK.
Use your time at lunch and after school to get some exercise. Too much sitting around can make you restless during the test.

REVIEW.
The GQE assesses what you should be learning. Your teacher may do some reviewing during class in the weeks before you take the GQE. Take it seriously. Go to www.IndianaGQE.com to check out sample questions.

HAVE A GOOD BREAKFAST.
Protein such as eggs, meat, cheese or yogurt will help you perform better than a sugary donut. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don’t overdo it.

ASK FOR HELP.
If you’ve had trouble with the ISTEP+ test in the past, don’t wait to ask a teacher, counselor or parent for help. Your school and community have extra help available. Be sure to take advantage of it.

Extra credit
Double-checking your work on a test pays off – you’ll probably catch mistakes if you take the time to proofread your answers carefully. Make sure you’ve erased any changes completely. And don’t forget to write your name in the proper place.

Go to www.IndianaGQE.com or call 1-888-54-ISTEP for more details.
List it! What to do to succeed your sophomore year

Big jobs—like getting through your sophomore year—are always easier if you break them down into small steps. The following to-do list will help. For more high school survival strategies, go to www.learnmoreindiana.org.

Fall

- Get your second year of high school off to a good start by polishing your study skills. If you need to improve in some subjects, now is the time. Colleges and future employers will look at your high school transcript and be impressed if they see good attendance and steady improvement in your grades.
- Keep track of your GPA. What’s a GPA? It’s your grade point average. Every grade you receive affects your GPA which colleges and other groups use to determine if you’re eligible for admission or scholarships.
- Make sure you’re on track to take and pass the ISTEP+ Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE). If you need help, talk to your teachers, counselors and parents now.
- Take the PSAT to get a feel for what the SAT will be like. Take PLAN to get experience for the ACT. Check with your school counselor for dates and test information.
- Starting with www.learnmoreindiana.org, surf the Web to check out information about colleges, proprietary (private career) schools and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Ask your parents to help plan college visits to campuses you might consider attending.
- Keep challenging yourself by registering for a rigorous class schedule, including Core 40 with Academic Honors, Core 40 with Technical Honors, Advanced Placement, and dual credit courses. You’ll want your last two years of high school to really count.

Spring

- Stay involved in school and community activities. By volunteering your talents, you can make a difference in someone’s life and learn skills you can use in college and beyond.
- Work with your school counselor to update your Indiana Guidance Portfolio career and course plan to reflect your current career and education plans.
- Consider enrolling in a career/technical program. Visit your school’s area career center.
- Plan a productive (but fun!) summer. Think about looking for a job that will help you prepare for a career, or find a summer camp or program that will jump-start your skills. In addition, volunteering and community service will help your community and yourself.
The PSAT is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. The SAT is an entrance exam used by colleges nationally. You can take the PSAT as many times as you want, and it’s great preparation for doing well on the SAT. It also gives you a chance to enter The National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs during 11th grade. In order to take the test, you need to sign up through your school. The great thing about the PSAT is that not only will it help you prepare for the actual SAT, but Indiana pays the exam fee for you to get the practice. The state recommends that you take the PSAT in the 10th and 11th grades for the best possible preparation on the SAT. Other PSAT benefits include:

1. **Higher scores**
   On average, students who take the PSAT earn higher scores on the SAT.

2. **Feedback**
   The PSAT Score Report gives students personalized feedback on their test performance, including suggestions on how to improve specific academic skills. You can also find more information at www.collegeboard.com.

WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring “real world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. These skills are valuable for any occupation – skilled or professional – and at any level of education. Students can use their WorkKeys scores to determine how their skills measure up to those required in the workforce. And, educators can use the scores to see how well they are preparing graduates for different occupations. For more information go to www.act.org/workkeys.

PLAN, which is the Pre-ACT test, is much like the PSAT in that it will provide firsthand practice for taking the ACT and help you determine if you’re ready to succeed in college. Like the SAT, the ACT is a common entrance exam used by colleges nationally. You can get more information on PLAN at www.actstudent.org/plan.

Ask your school counselor how you can register for this test.

**People who drop out of high school almost always regret it later.**

*Here are some reasons why:*

- National data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2000 Census indicates that over a lifetime, a high school dropout will earn half a million dollars less than a high school graduate.
- High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested during their lifetime.
- Eighty percent of prisoners in America are high school dropouts.

Life is harder for high school dropouts. So don’t quit, or think that dropping out will make your life easier. Talk to your school counselor, a teacher you like, or any adult you have a connection with to get advice on what you can do to make high school a better place to be. There may be choices and options that can help. Find a way to finish.
It’s time to start thinking about college, if you haven’t already. Even if you’re not sure right now whether you’ll be going to college for two or four years, you need to consider some type of education beyond high school. Think about what you’d like to study. Cost, distance from home and other factors that are important to you should be on your list of considerations, too.

1. **Talk to your parents.** The first thing to know when you are planning for college is that college is affordable. There are many payment options, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Start out by talking with your parents about what you’re looking for in the college experience and then you can look at the many avenues to pay for that experience. Check out [www.salliemaefund.org](http://www.salliemaefund.org) and [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org) for more information, then have a conversation with your parents about what you’ve found.

2. **Visit.** If there is a college campus in your community or one nearby, ask to visit. Take a walk on campus. If your family is traveling on vacation or visiting relatives, ask if you can stop along the way at a college or two. You can schedule a visit with the college admissions office, or just wander around on your own.

3. **Attend a regional college fair.** In addition to visiting college campuses, attend one of the many regional college fairs around the state or at your school. Colleges set up booths at these fairs and distribute information about their schools. Check out locations and dates at [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org).
EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

College
College is a great choice for your future. You’ll gain skills and knowledge you can use for the rest of your life, no matter what career you choose. You’ll have more job opportunities, more income potential, and quite possibly a great time learning and socializing on a college campus.

College is also a more flexible option than you might think. You can earn a two- or four-year degree, depending on the career you want. Now is a great time to explore your interests so you can start focusing on career areas you might like to pursue. Find more information about college life at the Learn More College Connection online at www.learnmoreindiana.org. Other helpful Web sites are USA Funds’ www.collegeanswer.com; the College Board’s www.collegeboard.com; US News & World Report’s www.usnews.com/college; and Monster’s www.monster.fastweb.com.

Apprenticeship
Work hard, earn money, and learn real-world skills—all at the same time. Sound pretty good? An apprenticeship may be the perfect match. Electricians, plumbers, carpenters and sheet metal workers are all examples of workers who serve apprenticeships to get the best jobs. The United States Department of Labor recognizes more than 800 apprenticeable occupations.

Basic requirements usually include that you be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. You’ll also need to take an admissions test administered by the apprenticeship program and be able to show that you have the physical ability to perform the work of the trade without hazard. Completing Core 40 in high school is your best shot at succeeding. Find out more about apprenticeships at: www.unionapprenticeship.com.

Military
For young men and women who want to serve our country, you can’t beat the military for offering an opportunity to learn new skills while earning a paycheck and money for college. Whether you choose the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or the Indiana National Guard, you’ll benefit from training and leadership opportunities. You also must be willing to put your life on the line if called upon, as thousands of U.S. troops are doing around the world. Learn more, about opportunities in the U.S. military at www.learnmoreindiana.org and www.myfuture.com.

HOT JOBS
For a list of “Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs,” go to www.in.gov/dwd/hoosierhotjobs/ an online guide to jobs “most in demand” in Indiana, including average wages, required education levels and basic skills needed to successfully compete for these jobs.

How to win a million dollars!
Forget lottery tickets—your odds of winning aren’t very good. But college is a great investment in your future. In 2000, the U.S. Census estimated that college graduates earn approximately $1 million more over a lifetime than workers with just a high school education.
What you think you know about college may—or may not—be true. See if you know the truth behind the following statements:

1. **True or False:** If you want to go to college, your grades are the only thing that matter.
2. **True or False:** If you don’t have straight A’s, you won’t get financial aid for college.
3. **True or False:** A high score on a college entrance exam (the SAT or ACT, for example) means you’ll get into the college of your choice.

**Answers:**

1. **FALSE.** If you want to go to college, you should work hard to get good grades, but students also need to take the most academically challenging classes available. Most college admissions officers say that good grades are important, but that it’s more important for students to push themselves. In other words, they’d like to see students taking Advanced Placement (AP) or honors courses and earn B’s instead of getting A’s in less challenging classes. Taking the hardest classes may mean a lower overall GPA, but you’ll be better prepared for college.

2. **FALSE.** It’s true that some financial assistance is based on academic achievement, but most is based on need.

3. **FALSE.** A high score may help, but college admission is based on a lot of different factors. Don’t count on the score from one test to get you in. Grades, activities, recommendations and sometimes an essay or interview are all factors. Core 40 is a must. Work hard all four years of high school to get good grades, find a few things you love to do for extracurricular activities, and impress the people around you, and you’ll probably have lots of choices when it comes to college.

Source: [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org)
The education you need to get the job you want

Read through these degree levels to find the education you need to pursue each job:

**Master’s, doctorate or professional degree:** Lawyer, Doctor, Architect, Scientist, Speech/language pathologist, University professor, Economist, Psychologist, Priest, Rabbi, Dentist, Veterinarian, Public policy analyst, Zoologist, Management consultant

**Bachelor’s [four-year] degree:** Teacher, Accountant, FBI agent, Engineer, Journalist, Insurance agent, Pharmacist, Computer systems analyst, Dietitian, Writer, Investment banker, Graphic designer, Social worker, Public relations specialist, News anchor, Landscape architect, Computer engineer, Special education teacher, Geologist, Architect, Certified public accountant, Engineer, Stockbroker

**Associate’s [two-year] degree or apprenticeship:** Computer technician, Surveyor, Electrician, Registered nurse, Dental hygienist, Medical laboratory technician, Commercial artist, Hotel/restaurant manager, Engineering technician, Automotive mechanic, Administrative assistant, Water and wastewater treatment worker, Plant operator, Heating/air-conditioning/refrigeration technician, Paralegal/legal assistant, Physical therapy assistant, Surgical technologist, Cardiovascular technologist, Respiratory therapist, Data processing equipment repairer

**High school diploma plus training:** Bookkeeping/accounting assistant, Flight attendant, Office clerk, Bank teller, Cook, Firefighter, Paramedic, Real estate agent, Hairdresser, Medical transcriptionist, Child-care worker, Medical assistant, Pest control worker

**No formal training:** Taxi cab driver, Janitor

*Source: U.S. Department of Education*

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**TEST-DRIVE A CAREER: 4 WAYS TO LEARN MORE**

**1. SURF**

You can read a lot about careers online. Check out [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) for hundreds of in-depth career profiles, including descriptions of the work environment, salary and training required, as well as links to other Web sites that provide even more information. Reading about careers can help you choose high school classes, part-time jobs, volunteer work and, eventually, college or training that will help you achieve your dreams.

**2. SHADOW**

Job shadowing is a great way to see what a job is really like. Ask your teacher, counselor or parent to help you set up a job-shadowing opportunity with people in careers that interest you or in places you might like to work. You can spend a day, or part of a day, at work shadowing someone and watching what he or she does. Be prepared to take notes and ask questions about what you see.

**3. SERVE**

Community service or volunteer work can give you experience in working with other people, children or even animals. You may discover you love to help organize projects or raise money. You’ll discover how easy it is for one person to make a difference. Many high schools give special recognition to students who complete community service hours (some schools even require it for graduation). Many colleges and scholarship applications also want to know if you’ve done community service work.

**4. EXPERIENCE MORE**

Indiana high schools offer students opportunities to combine school and work as well as high school and college. These are great ways to get a jump on life after high school, including helping you determine a career path or getting a head start on earning college credit while still in high school. Ask your counselor or teachers about school-to-career technical programs or other cooperative education (co-op) programs that allow you to attend classes part of the school day, then work in a career-related job during the other part.

The best thing about researching different careers is that you can try out things that you might never have thought of before. It could turn out that an experience you have in a field you had never considered might just be the direction you choose to go.
PARENTS: 8 great ways to help your student succeed.

1. **HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS.** It is important that your child knows you value education. Make sure your child understands that you expect him or her to work hard, graduate and continue learning after high school.

2. **CHECK GRADES.** Your son or daughter may say things are “fine” at school but don’t stop checking report cards, progress reports, or, if available, your child’s online grades or class progress.

3. **TALK TO THE TEACHER.** Teachers know how hard students are working, how well they are behaving, the quality of their homework and what areas need improvement. Collect e-mail addresses or phone numbers of all your child’s teachers and check in periodically.

4. **DON’T BUCKLE ON HOMEWORK.** If your child is not studying at home, ask why, and double-check with teachers. It’s tough to hold the line, but making sure your child does his or her homework is important for academic success.

5. **ASK FOR HELP.** Students who are struggling in a particular class may need extra help after school or with a tutor. Find out from your school where you can go for help and make sure your student gets the help he or she needs. Catching a problem area now can make a big difference.

6. **GO TO PARENT MEETINGS.** Most schools offer parent nights or teacher/parent sessions that provide great information. Check your school’s calendar at the beginning of the year and plan to attend.

7. **GET INVOLVED.** Nothing will have a bigger impact on your student’s success than your involvement in his or her education.

8. **LEARN MORE.** There are many resources available through your school, community, local library, online at [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) and by phone at 1-800-992-2076.

Learn More Indiana is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to provide you with information to support your child’s learning.