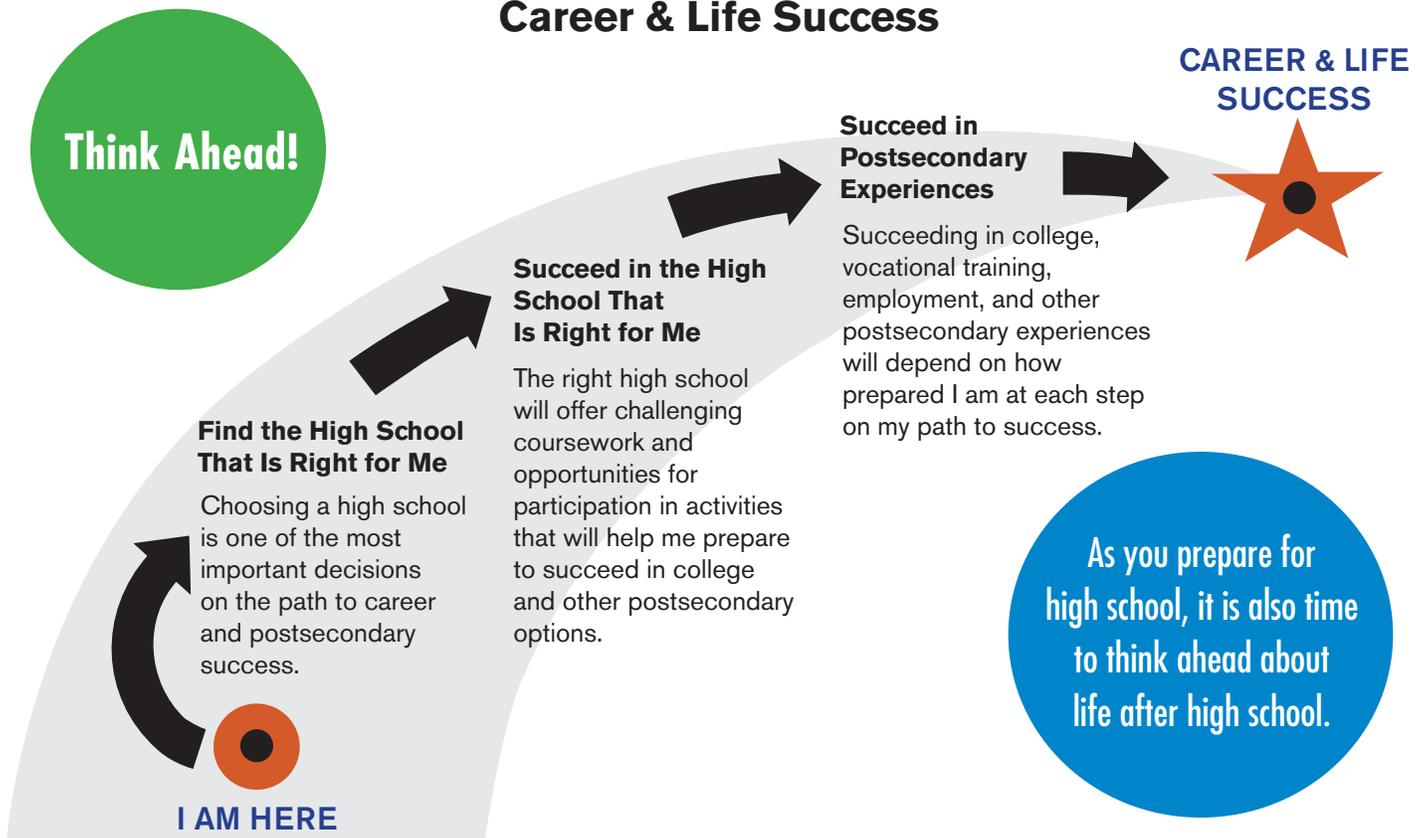


# Your Decisions Matter: Today and After High School Graduation

## Plan Your Path to Career & Life Success



### Make a Plan for Success

The first steps to making a plan for postsecondary success are to know yourself and develop career goals:

#### Know Yourself

My interests are \_\_\_\_\_

My strengths are \_\_\_\_\_

Activities that match my strengths are \_\_\_\_\_

#### Develop Career Goals

My career goals are \_\_\_\_\_

After high school graduation, I want to \_\_\_\_\_

In 10 years, I want to \_\_\_\_\_

In 20 years, I want to \_\_\_\_\_



*Your responses will help you as you consider your high school application choices.*

## Checklist: Making Your High School Choice

As you review the High School Directory, attend high school fairs and open houses, and complete your high school application, look for schools that will prepare you for success in college and other postsecondary opportunities.

Use the checklist below to consider whether each high school will:



- **Provide the opportunity for me to:**

- Take classes that match my interests.
- Engage in coursework and activities that build on my strengths and support my academic, career, and social/personal development.
- Incorporate technology into my learning experiences.
- Take challenging courses that will prepare me for college. (Challenging coursework includes advanced placement classes, four years of math, four years of science, and meaningful electives.)

*Easy classes will NOT help me prepare for the challenging coursework required in college and the knowledge and skills needed in other postsecondary opportunities and the world of work.*

- **Assist me to become a lifelong learner by encouraging me to:**

- Develop good study habits.
- Manage my time effectively to complete all assignments successfully and on time.
- Learn when and how to ask for help, including asking teachers questions during and outside class.

- **Encourage me to participate in meaningful after-school and extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, internships or job opportunities, and mentorships that match my interests and help me develop my ability to work with others, manage responsibility, and lead others.**

- **Provide access to a guidance and advisory program with dedicated guidance and college counselors and other staff who will work closely with me each year of high school to build a successful plan for life after high school, as they help me:**

- Learn all about the requirements needed to graduate from high school and the requirements that I will need to stay on track to success in college and the career of my choice.
- Further explore my interests and strengths; learn about college and career opportunities; and to learn all about the college application and financial aid process.
- Develop a career portfolio by assisting me with career and college exploration tools such as CareerZone at [www.nycareerzone.org](http://www.nycareerzone.org).

- **Provide opportunities for college campus visits in and outside of New York City each year; take campus tours and ask current college students questions about their postsecondary experiences.**

- **Encourage me to ask adults questions about planning for after graduation by:**

- Talking to my parents/caregivers, mentors, and teachers about my plans for after graduation.
- Finding people who have my dream job or study at my dream college and asking them for advice and tips on how they achieved their own success.

- **Encourage the meaningful participation of my parents/caregivers on my path to success in high school and beyond.**