



**Your Children
Can Go to College.
Yes They Can!**



AN ACTION GUIDE FOR IMMIGRANT PARENTS



Acknowledgments

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You can find this guide online at: thenyic.org/education/parentguide. For more information, please contact the New York Immigration Coalition at 212-627-2227.



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Dear Parents:

Thank you for reading our *College Guide for Immigrant Parents*. We hope our guide will help you and your child make good decisions about college. We wrote this guide because we know that the system is hard to understand. There isn't always enough help for families new to this country.

We didn't want this guide to be too long or too hard to understand. So, we haven't included everything there is to know about college. But, we have included enough information for you to get started.

At the New York Immigration Coalition, we fight for laws and policies to make our city and state a better place for immigrants. College education is a great way to help immigrant families have better lives for themselves.

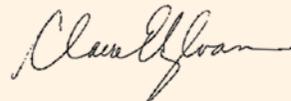
At Internationals Network for Public Schools, we work to improve high school education for immigrant students. Students at our high schools do well and many of them go to college.

College is a great opportunity for immigrants. Your children deserve this opportunity. And you deserve good information and help when you need it.

Sincerely,



Steven Choi
Executive Director
New York Immigration Coalition
On behalf of the Education Collaborative



Claire E. Sylvan
Executive Director
Internationals Network
for Public Schools



Steven Choi



Claire E. Sylvan

Dear Families:

A college education is more important than ever before, especially for children of immigrant families who have come to New York City in pursuit of a better life. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) and The City University of New York (CUNY) are working together to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for college and the 21st-century workforce.

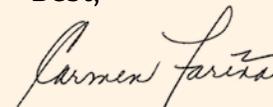
We know that for many families who have arrived to this country from abroad, navigating the college application process can seem overwhelming. That's why we've partnered with the New York Immigration Coalition and Internationals Network for Public Schools to create this guide: to highlight the many resources available to you and help you better understand how to help your child graduate high school and enter college.

Through a special initiative called Graduate NYC!, the New York City Mayor's Office, the Department of Education, and The City University of New York are collaborating on projects to increase the number of students enrolling in college. More information is available at gradnyc.com. CUNY and the DOE are also partners in College Now, a dual-enrollment program that allows students to take college-readiness and college-credit courses in high school. College Now is offered in 350 New York City high schools and enrolls nearly 20,000 students every year. Please visit collegenow.cuny.edu to find out more about this free program.

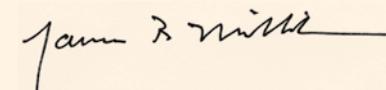
Immigrant students bring rich and valuable culture, language, and diversity to their classrooms, and we are committed to providing all students—no matter their background, origin, or native language—with a high-quality education and the support needed to become successful individuals in college and careers.

Families and communities are essential partners in preparing students for life after high school and we look forward to working with you to meet this challenge. Please visit our websites—cuny.edu and schools.nyc.gov—to learn more about the many programs and services that will help level the playing field and afford opportunities for your child's ongoing success.

Best,



Carmen Fariña
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education



James B. Milliken
Chancellor
The City University of New York



Carmen Fariña



James B. Milliken

College is part of the American Dream



Parents send their children to college to get a better job, earn more money, and learn more about the world. High school education is very important, but it is not enough. College is the best way for your family to get all you deserve from your life in the USA.



We Did It. And You Can Do It, Too!

Many immigrants go to college in New York City. Your child can, too! Immigrant parents have found good colleges for their children. And they have found a lot of money to help pay for college. You can do these things, too.

Read our stories on the next few pages to see how we did it. Your children can go to college. It won't be easy for them, but they can do it. You need to get involved and help them a lot. It won't be easy for you, but you can do it, too!

You don't have to be the best student to go to college. Good grades help a lot, but all you need for college is a high school degree or a GED diploma.

If nobody in your family went to college, your child can be the first one. Your child will meet other students who are the first to go to college in their families, too.

College will give your child more ways to help your community. Immigrants who go to college find many ways of giving back to their community. With a college education, it is possible to help many people and do important things in this country.

Your child is a good person. Your child is smart enough for college. In college, your child will meet other good people. They can keep your traditions while learning a lot and getting ready for a career.

Any college in America would be lucky to have your child as a student. Try to remember this. Your pride and confidence in your child will help them a lot.

Isabel and Maria



My name is Isabel. In a few years, my daughter will go to college.

I have always been involved in my children's education. That's why we came to this country. I wanted to give them a good education. I read to them every day when they were young. I helped them with their homework. I went to meet with their teachers.

My daughter wanted to know about college.

But, it was hard for me to guide my oldest daughter, Maria. When she was 12 or 13 years old, she started asking me many questions about her future. She wanted to know about so many different jobs. I work in a restaurant. But, she wanted to know about architecture, science, and business. I wanted my girl to dream big, but I didn't know about these things.

Soon, she began asking me about college. I thought it was too early to think about college. But, I did not tell her that. I want Maria to have her own ideas. But, I didn't know the answers to her questions. Luckily, I have 3 good friends who helped us find answers. They helped us get ready for college.

My friend Carmen helped Maria think about college.

My friend Carmen met with my daughter to help her think about her future. Carmen listened to Maria talk about what she liked to do and what she didn't like to do. Carmen asked Maria about her favorite classes. And she asked her: "What kinds of things are you good at outside of school?" Maria talked about her strengths as a person. Carmen and Maria talked about jobs Maria would be happy doing.

After my daughter met with Carmen, she was more self-confident. She had more ideas about what she wanted in a job and what she did not want.

My friend Angela helped me know my rights as a parent.

Another friend of mine, Angela, told me I can get a free interpreter when I go to my daughter's school. Sometimes there is nobody at the school who speaks Spanish. Angela told me that I can ask for someone to translate for me. I can get someone to help me for parent-teacher conferences or when I go talk with the guidance counselor. Every school can help immigrant parents understand what is being said in English. You just have to ask.

Angela also showed us how to go to the library to learn about careers and colleges. The people who work at the library showed us a book about college and jobs. The book says what to study in college to get the job you want. And they had a book that listed all the colleges in New York. We read about the City University of New York. It has many colleges across the city and does not cost a lot of money.

My friend Carlos helped Maria learn about work.

My third friend is Carlos. He works for a travel agency. He let Maria come to his job every Monday after school for a few months. Maria met all the people in his office. She learned what they do at work. She saw that some people love their job and some people do not. Maria asked Carlos a lot of questions. And she learned how to answer the telephone and greet people when they come into the office. Carlos told Maria that she can talk about this experience on her college application.

My friends are a great team.

My friends were a great team! They came to this country and worked hard to have a good life. They care about their community very much. They are good role models for my children. And they helped us get ready for college.

Tashi and Nyima



**My name is Tashi. My daughter is 18 years old.
She wants to go to college.**

When Nyima began speaking about college, I didn't know what to think. At home, Nyima is so shy. She doesn't speak English well. She doesn't get good grades in high school. I didn't think college was a good idea. I thought that college is too expensive. We don't have money for college. When she finishes high school, she should help her family more.

We meet with Nyima's guidance counselor.

Nyima asked me to come to her school one day to speak to the guidance counselor. I took some time off work to go with her. The school sent someone to translate our meeting into my language so I could understand and talk in my own language.

The guidance counselor told us that college would help Nyima get a better job. She can make more money in the future. But, we need the money now. I didn't understand how Nyima could spend two or three years at college and not help the family. The guidance counselor said she thought college would be good for Nyima. She talked about how families make a few more years of sacrifice so their children can have a better life. "It's worth it," she said.

We need money for college.

But, how can I pay for college? I work hard and make enough money to feed my family. But, I don't have the kind of money you need to pay for college. It is too expensive.

The guidance counselor told us there is money to help immigrant parents pay for college. Last year, a friend of Nyima's school got \$5,000 for college. And some other students got even more money. They got the money from the government. They only had to fill out some forms. Now they can go to college. They were all immigrants like Nyima.

I had no idea. I thought that college was very expensive. I didn't know that you can get help paying for college. The guidance counselor said that a lot of immigrant students get help from the government. And some get even more help from the college they choose.

Nyima is behind in school because learning English is hard.

It sounded pretty good. It was better than I thought. But, then the guidance counselor gave us some bad news. She showed me a paper with a list of all the classes that Nyima has taken in high school. The guidance counselor explained that Nyima is pretty far behind in her classes. It will take her 2 more years to graduate.



2 more years?! I was very surprised, but I didn't say anything. Why didn't she have enough credits? What was she doing? I know that it is not Nyima's fault. Coming to this country was hard on her. Everything is so different. Learning English is not easy. I know that it takes time. But, how can she go to school for another 2 years? She is 18 years old.

The guidance counselor said that my daughter has the right to a free education until she is 21 years old. And when she turns 21, she can

finish the school year. She said we should take advantage of this opportunity. Education is worth a lot.

The guidance counselor said that immigrants who need to learn English sometimes need more time to graduate. I asked if there is extra help for Nyima to do better in her classes. The guidance counselor said there is. But, Nyima needs to work hard and study more. She should not work as many hours at her job.

Can Nyima go to college?

OK, maybe Nyima can graduate from high school. But, she wants to go to college. How can Nyima go to college? She is having trouble in high school. Her English is not so good. The guidance counselor said that Nyima is a smart girl. She can do well in college. But, she needs more time to do all her high school classes. And she needs time to practice her English more.

I listened to the guidance counselor. But, I wasn't sure that college was a good idea for Nyima. That is when the guidance counselor told us to go visit a college to see what it is like. She told us the names of 2 colleges we could go look at. You can go see the college

campus with all its buildings and classrooms. You can find out what it is like to be a student there.

We visit a college together.

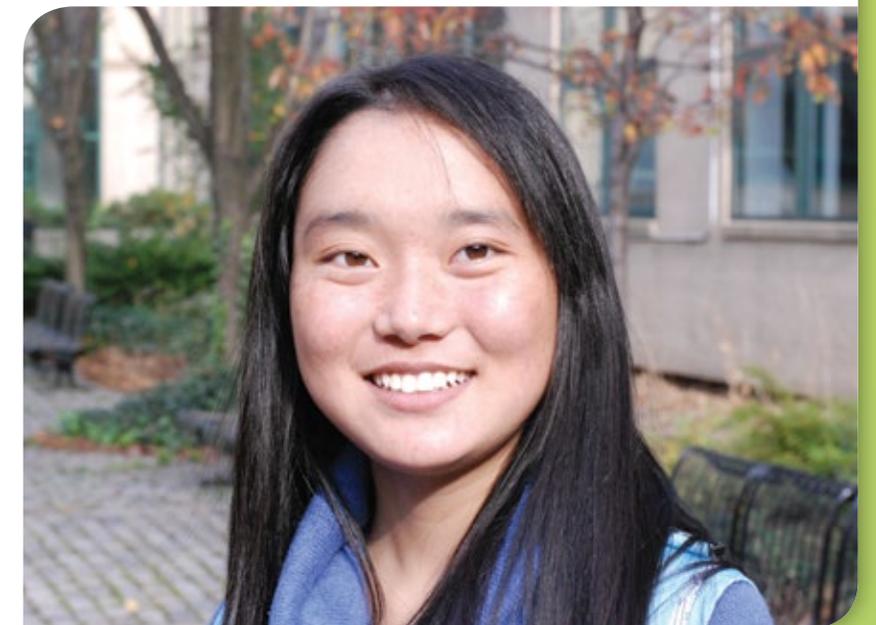
The next day, I told Nyima that we should visit a college campus. Nyima used a computer at school to sign up for a free tour of one of the colleges. A few weeks later, we went to the college for our free campus tour. It was Saturday morning. The college was not very far from our home.

A student from the college showed us around. He was the first person in his family to go to college. He said that his parents had no money to send him to school. But, he got a lot of help from the government. Now, his family can pay for college. He also said that he got extra help when he started college. There is a great program at the college called "College Discovery." It helps students who don't have a lot of money. They give you extra help with your classes. And they also give you free MetroCards and other things. I think Nyima will need that.

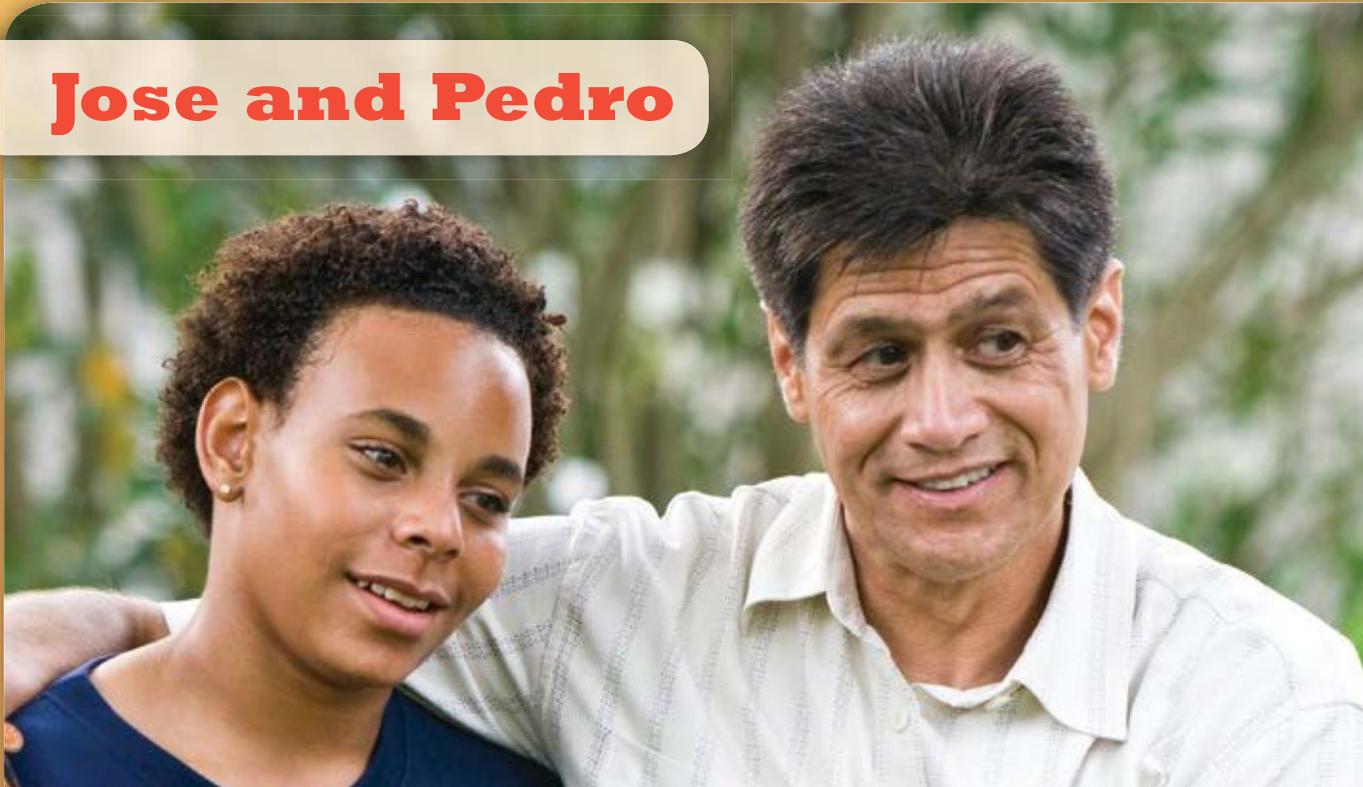
Maybe college is a good idea for my daughter.

Nyima asked a few questions. They were good questions. I had never seen her talk in public. She spoke well. Her English wasn't too bad. She sounded like a smart young woman. I think that college will help

Nyima become more confident. She will learn a lot, but she will still be part of our family. I can see that my daughter belongs in college.



Jose and Pedro



My name is Jose. My son will not graduate from high school. But, we have a plan for him.

I never thought college was for us.

Nobody in my family ever went to college. When you come to this country, you have to make money. You don't have time for anything else. Because you have a lot of bills to pay and you have to send money back home, too. It isn't easy living here. But, there's no life for you back home. You have to come to New York if you can.

My boy never liked school. He never had any teachers who helped him much. So, we never thought anything about college. I was just happy that Pedro was going to high school.

My son won't graduate from high school.

But, one day I got a letter from Pedro's high school. I couldn't understand what the letter was saying. So, Pedro and I went to the school to meet with someone. I brought my sister with me because she speaks English better than me. We met with a woman who is Pedro's guidance counselor. She told me that Pedro is doing bad in

school. In fact, he is doing so badly that he can't graduate from high school.

She explained that you need to do 2 things to graduate: pass enough classes to get 44 credits and pass 5 big exams called the Regents. But, Pedro only has 16 credits. And he only took 1 Regents exam, but failed it. He is in 11th grade. He can't possibly graduate from high school.

At first, I was mad. Isn't there anyone here at the school paying attention to my boy? How could he be doing so badly? Doesn't anyone help kids like Pedro? He needs extra help.

The GED/HSE is a second chance.

My sister asked the guidance counselor what else the school can do for Pedro. She said there's another school that can do more for Pedro. Pedro needs to learn more English. And he needs to learn how to read better. Once he does that, Pedro can keep taking classes and try for a different kind of high school diploma called a GED/HSE.

The woman gave us a list of places that have GED/HSE classes. She said studying for the GED/HSE is different from high school. It is like a second chance. A lot of young adults like Pedro do better in GED/HSE classes. It doesn't feel like high school. The GED/HSE program is smaller and everybody knows you. And, Pedro can get a job while he takes his GED/HSE classes.

With a GED/HSE, you can go to college.

Pedro will have to work hard and go to school every day to get his GED/HSE diploma. It will take a few years. But, the guidance counselor told us that with a GED/HSE diploma, Pedro can get good job training. He can find work that pays better. He can have a better life. She said that he can even go to college! College? Yes, college! With a GED/HSE diploma, you can go to college. The woman said that Pedro is smart. But, he needs more help to get there. And she told us about a GED/HSE class at a community college that will teach him English really well. Then, they will get him ready for college.

I plan to talk with Pedro more about college. But, for now, I am happy that he won't quit school. He needs to start GED/HSE classes that give him the help he needs.

Alcee



My name is Alcee. I come from Africa and I am going to college.

When I was younger, my parents wanted me to go to college. But, they didn't know about the American system. They didn't go to college back home. And they didn't speak English. We had no idea what to do first.

I got help from my science teacher.

When I was in 11th grade, my science teacher helped me out. I did well in his class. My dad always told me that I was good in math and science. When classes got hard, he said that I was smart enough for any class. He said that lots of girls are good at science. But, they have to believe in themselves.

My science teacher believed in me. He told me about a program at our school that lets you take college classes while you are still in

high school. It's called College Now. You go to a college after school or on Saturday and you take a real college class. After your class, you can go to the library or hang out at the student cafeteria. She said they give you a college ID with your picture on it.

It sounded really cool to me. But, your grades have to be good. And you need good scores on the Regents. My grades are pretty good, but my test scores are not great. I didn't think that I could get into the program. But, my teacher told me to apply. So, I did.

The College Now program helped me a lot.

I got into the program. I took my first College Now class at Hunter College in Manhattan with about 20 other high school students. I had never heard of Hunter College, but it was easy to get to by subway. I took a nutrition class. It was hard. We had to read a lot. But, I liked the teacher. She told me that I will do well in college. But, I need to take more English classes to improve my writing.

After my nutrition class, I took a computer class. I didn't know much about computers. But, I liked the class a lot. The other students were really smart. We had fun hanging out together. And we learned a lot. Now I know how to use a few computer programs and I can make my own website.

I was lucky to be in College Now because not all high schools have it. I took two college classes for free! Those are two classes that I don't have to take and pay for when I get to college.

I joined the College Club.

I told my guidance counselor how much I liked College Now. She told me about a special class at our school to help students get ready for college called "College Club." The College Club taught me so much! It helped me do everything you need to do to apply to college. I don't know how anyone can get to college without a class like that one. I was lucky that my high school had that class. Some of my friends went to high schools that didn't have a College Club. I wish they had it, too.

College Club started with the SAT exam. Our teacher explained what it is and why colleges want you to take it. I took the SAT exam once and did not do well. Our teacher showed us how to study for it. I studied a lot at home for that exam. I took the SAT a second time. I did better the second time, but not great.

I asked for help paying for college.

Then, I learned that immigrants can get money from the government to pay for college. My family needs help paying for college. We have no money. My teacher gave each of us the government form that everyone who wants help paying for college has to fill out. It is called the “FAFSA.” You can do it on-line if you have a social security number.

We spent a long time filling out the FAFSA in class. It was hard. I had to get some papers from my parents. And I had to wait for them to pay their taxes in January. When I finished filling out the FAFSA, we had to wait a long time to hear back.

I found some good colleges.

My College Club showed us how to find good colleges. We spent a lot of time looking at colleges on the internet. We learned about community colleges that are cheaper and easier to get into than 4-year colleges. They last for only 2 years, if you go to school full-time. We learned about the City University of New York. It has

community colleges and 4-year colleges all around the City. They are friendly to immigrants.

I wanted to go to Hunter College because I went there for my College Now classes. But, my teacher told me to

find a few other schools that I like because I might not get into Hunter. Or I might find a school that I like better. Our class had books that listed many colleges and told us which subjects they are good at. The books also told us how much each school costs. And, they told us how hard each school would be to get into.

My high school grades were good enough for some schools I looked at. But, they were not good enough for other schools. My SAT scores were too low for some colleges I liked. But, my teacher told me that I am much more than my grades and test scores. She told me that I can talk about my strengths on the college application.

My teacher took us all on a college tour one Saturday morning. A college student showed us around. I learned a lot about the school. Some of my friends liked the school. But, I didn't like it. I thought it was not very friendly. It was too small and nobody from my country goes there. I liked Hunter College better.

I applied to colleges and I got in.

I was sure that I wanted to go to Hunter. But, I found two other schools that I liked. I decided to apply to all three colleges. I had to do three different applications on-line. But, the applications were pretty much the same. And my teacher showed us how to practice filling out the application on paper before doing the real thing on-line.

The most important part of the college application is the personal essay. You have to write it in English and you have to make it good. So, for me, it was the hardest part. We all spent a lot of time writing our essays. My teacher told me that my life story was interesting and my culture is important. I have to talk about that in my essay. I worked hard on it.

After I applied to three colleges and filled out my FAFSA, it was a long wait. But, then I got the good news. I got into Hunter. And my family got \$6,000 in financial aid from the government. It's almost enough to pay for my first year of college. I was so happy!



3 Things We Did That You Can Do, Too



1

Get a team of people around yourself to help your family.

It is not easy to get ready for college. You don't have to do it alone. Can you think of 2 or 3 friends or family members who can help you? Your friends don't need to know a lot about college. Their job is to listen to you, help you do small things, and be your friend so you don't try to do everything alone.

2

Visit some colleges with your child to learn about them.

You can learn a lot about the American system of colleges by visiting a few colleges and asking questions. Most students who go to college visit a few colleges when they are still in high school. You can visit a college with your child to tell them: "This is where you belong."

3

Ask for help for your child.

Everyone who goes to college gets help and advice to get there. But, you have to ask for it. Sometimes, it is not easy to ask for help when you do not speak the language. But, you have to do it. Page 43 of this guide tells you how to get help for everything you need to do.

How To Get Money For College

1

Fill out a form called the "FAFSA."

Help paying for college is usually called "financial aid." The most important thing you can do to get financial aid is complete a FAFSA. FAFSA means: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. There is no fee to get a FAFSA or to turn it in.

2

Fill out any other financial aid forms that a college asks for.

Most colleges have money set aside to help parents pay for college. After you fill out the FAFSA, you may have to fill out another form for each college your child applies to.



3

Find a few other scholarships your child can apply for.

Scholarships are money for college that you don't have to pay back. You can look on the internet for a list of scholarships that your child can apply for.

4

Ask for more help directly from the colleges that accept your child.

Parents sometimes get more money from the college when they ask for it. You can talk to someone at the colleges where your child gets accepted.

1 Fill out the FAFSA

- ▶ **Fill out the FAFSA to apply for 3 kinds of financial aid at one time:**
 - **GOVERNMENT GRANTS** are money for college that you don't have to pay back. You can get up to \$10,000 for each year of college. The two biggest grants are called the "Pell grant" and the "TAP award." You have to fill out another form after the FAFSA to get a TAP award. You don't have to get the best grades in high school to get government grants. These grants are based on family income and need.
 - **WORK STUDY PROGRAM** is money that college students can earn from jobs set up for them. The government gives money to colleges to create jobs for students who need help paying for college. These jobs are called "work study" jobs. The jobs are usually on campus. Students find out if they get a work study job when they hear back from each college they apply to. They will then look for a "work study" job on campus when school begins.
 - **LOANS** are money that you borrow to pay for college and must pay back later with extra money called "interest." The government gives students and parents loans to help pay for college. Your child finds out if they got a loan when they hear back from each college they apply to. But, you don't have to take the loan. If you want the loan, you and your child will have to go to the college financial aid office. You or your child will have to sign papers. You or your child will promise to pay the loan back with extra money called "interest."
- ▶ **You can fill out the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov.** Make sure you are on the website that says "ed.gov" at the top of the screen. Do not go to "FAFSA.com" or any other website.
- ▶ **At the end of the FAFSA, be sure to click on the link that says "Optional Feature – Start your state application."** This link will help you start your application for a New York State TAP award.
- ▶ **Children who are U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents or refugees/asylees can get financial aid even if their parents are undocumented.** Financial aid is based on the immigration status of the child, not the parent.

- ▶ **Children who are not U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents or refugees/asylees must ask for help from the guidance counselor and the financial aid office of each college they apply to.**
- ▶ **It is hard to fill out the FAFSA.** You will need to bring papers to prove your child's citizenship or immigration status. And you will need to bring a copy of your tax return and other proof of your family's income. You may need to bring in copies of papers if you get money from the government through "public assistance" or because you have a disability. But, you fill out only one form and it is sent to every college your child applies to. Ask your child's high school for help filling out the FAFSA.
- ▶ **You should complete the FAFSA in January of your child's 12th grade** (also called "senior year" of high school). You can still fill out a FAFSA later, but it's better to do it then. If you haven't gotten your tax return, you can use the last year's tax return and update the information when that year's is ready. Some financial aid is given out to the students who apply first.
- ▶ **After you fill out the FAFSA, your child will get an email called a "Student Aid Report" also known as a SAR.** This will be sent to your child 3-5 days after the FAFSA is filled out. You can then print a paper copy or have one sent in the mail. Make sure all the information is correct on the Student Aid Report. If there is something wrong or missing, call the phone number on the form and talk to someone about it.
- ▶ **You will find out how much financial aid your family gets when your child hears back from each college they apply to.** You can visit the Financial Aid Office of the college your child wants to attend to ask for additional help.



2 Fill out any other financial aid forms that a college asks for.

- ▶ **Many colleges give their own scholarships to help families pay for school.** Scholarships are money for college that you do not have to pay back. They will ask your child to fill out another form along with the FAFSA.
- ▶ **Many very expensive schools give big scholarships worth thousands of dollars.** A big scholarship can make the most expensive school affordable for working families.
- ▶ **Many scholarships from colleges go to students who get very good grades in high school.** But some go to students who do not have much money.
- ▶ **You will find out if your child got a scholarship when you hear back from each college they apply to.** You will find out in the same letter that you hear about the financial aid you applied for with the FAFSA. Some colleges put this information online and some mail letters.



3 Find some other scholarships your child can apply for.

- ▶ **Charities, big businesses, unions, religious groups and other institutions sometimes have money to help students pay for college.** This help is sometimes called a “private” scholarship because it is not from the government. You do not have to pay this money back.
- ▶ **Private scholarships are not easy to get.** Most students do not get a private scholarship, but some do. If your family needs money for college, it is important to find some private scholarships and apply for them. Scholarships are easier to get when your child does well in school and practices their writing a lot.
- ▶ **Try to find a few scholarships that you can apply for in your child’s junior year of high school.** You can ask for help to find scholarships at your child’s school. And you can find a list of scholarships on these 3 websites (only in English):
 - 1 **New Visions for Public Schools** has a list of scholarships for New York City students on its website: [newvisions.org/pages/scholarship-opportunities](https://www.newvisions.org/pages/scholarship-opportunities). You can also google: “New Visions scholarships for New York City students” to find this list.
 - 2 **Fastweb Scholarship Search** helps students find private scholarships. You can use it to find scholarships that do not require US citizenship or a Social Security Number. Visit: [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com).
 - 3 **The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)** has a list of scholarships on its website. Some of the scholarships are for undocumented students. Visit: [maldef.org](https://www.maldef.org) and click on “Scholarships.”

- ▶ **Each scholarship has its own application form and own due date.** Most scholarships want the student to write an essay and to send in one or two “recommendation letters.” Recommendation letters are short letters written by teachers, guidance counselors, bosses, and other people outside the family saying why the student should get the scholarship.
- ▶ **Your child will need to write an essay for most scholarships.** They should write a practice essay before applying for scholarships. Your child can show their practice essay to their guidance counselor and their teachers to get help. Often you can use the same essay for a few scholarships.

Start Saving Money Now!

Can you find a few dollars each week to save for college?

Most families find it hard to save money. But, even the smallest amount of money you save now will help your child pay for college. It is never too early to save money for college.

New York State has special savings accounts called “529 accounts” to help you save money for college.

When you put money into a 529 account, it adds up over time. And you also pay less money on your taxes each year that you put money into your 529 account. You can open a 529 account if you are a citizen or legal permanent resident with a Social Security Number. But, you can only spend money in your 529 account on college. You can’t spend the money on anything else.

New York City has free help for immigrant families to manage their money and do their taxes.

You can get help with a family budget. You can get help to open a free or low-cost bank account. The City can tell you how to open a 529 account to save money for college. The City can also tell you where to get free help paying your taxes. Call 311 to ask for help managing your money or paying your taxes.

4 Ask for more help from each college that accepts your child.

- ▶ **Each college that accepts your child will send you a letter telling you how much financial aid your child gets.** The letter will tell you how much your family has to pay. Different colleges may give you different amounts of money. The colleges will not know about any private scholarships that you have applied for on your own. So, the colleges will not include any money from those scholarships in the letter. Sometimes the letter also tells you about how much it will cost to go to the college. Your child may have fewer costs if they live at home during college.
- ▶ **You can call the college “Financial Aid” office and ask them to explain the letter.** The letter will have the telephone number you will need. Your child’s guidance counselor should be able to help you, too.
- ▶ **You and your child can go to the college Financial Aid office to ask for more help.** You can tell them why your family needs more help. Sometimes, a college can find a little more money if a family comes to ask for it. You can take someone with you to translate. You can also call them to tell them why your family needs more help. But, a personal visit is better.



It's Important To Understand Loans!

Loans are money that you borrow to pay for college and must pay back later with extra money called “interest.”

You want the loan with the lowest “interest rate.” A loan with an “interest rate” of 5% will cost you much less money when you pay it back than a loan with an interest rate of 8%. And you don't want the interest to start adding up until your child graduates from college and can earn good money with their college degree. Ask about this before you sign the loan papers.

The best college loan is called the “federal direct subsidized” loan.

It has the lowest interest rate of all the loans. It will be the cheapest to pay back. The next best loan is called a “Perkins” loan. Your child applies for “federal direct subsidized” and “Perkins” loans on the FAFSA form. Students don't have to start paying these loans back until after they graduate from college. But, they do have to start paying if they quit school. Unfortunately, undocumented students can't get these loans. Not every college has the Perkins loan.

There are other kinds of loans for students and for parents.

But, other kinds of student loans are not as good as a “direct subsidized” or a “Perkins” loan. Loans for parents cost more than loans for students because they have higher interest rates. And the interest usually starts adding up right away, not years from now when your child graduates from college.

Loans can be a smart way to pay for college, but you have to know what you are doing.

Ask each college how many students have trouble paying back their loans after they graduate. Make sure you know how much interest you will have to pay before you sign for the loan. Also, make sure you know when you or your child must start paying the money back. Can you afford it? Ask for help if you do not understand the loan papers and make sure to know all of the rules about paying back the loan.

What You Need To Know About Colleges In The USA

Your child can go to college. All immigrants can go to college in New York, even undocumented students. There are different college programs available for different kind of students. You don't have to be the best student in your high school to get into college. You just need a high school diploma or a GED/HSE diploma. But, good grades in high school will help your child get into more colleges and find more help paying for college.

There are good colleges for your child and you can find them. But, the system is hard to understand for many people, especially for immigrants new to this country. You and your child will need to spend time learning about the different kinds of colleges. Then you can apply to the colleges that are best for your child.

When you finish college, you graduate with a degree. There are different kinds of college degrees. The most common degrees are Bachelor's Degree for a 4-year college and Associate's Degree for a 2-year college. 2-year colleges are also called “Community Colleges.”

2-year colleges often have good job training classes that help students get a specific job. They have classes at night and on the weekend for working students.

You can start at a 2-year college and move on to a 4-year college when you graduate. Many students who want to do a 4-year degree are ready to start at a 2-year college. They can save money because 2-year colleges are cheaper than 4-year colleges. It is good to talk with the 2-year college about how to do this when you apply to college.

Most students take more than 2 years to finish Community College. You must study full-time to graduate from a Community College in 2 years. You must pass all your college classes. And you must be ready to do well in college classes when you start college. Some Community Colleges have a special program to help students get ready for college classes before they start college.



Some colleges promise you a degree in 18 months or an Associate's Degree and a GED at the same time, and these promises are usually lies.

There are some colleges set up to make money for their owners. These colleges are called “for profit” or “proprietary.” They make promises to their students that are not true and you need to be very careful about them. Some families have been cheated out of a lot of money by these schools. You have to ask questions to make sure the college can keep its promises to you. You can ask the Admissions Office at each college if it is “for profit.” You can ask: Do most of your students graduate with a degree or do only a few graduate? Do most of your students get jobs in the subject they study or do only a few students find good jobs in the subject they study? How many students have trouble paying back their loans after they graduate?

People with 4-year degrees usually earn more money than people with 2-year degrees. They earn more money when they know more about their field and have more experience in it. Then they can get a higher-level job that pays more money.

4-year colleges are usually more expensive and harder to get into than 2-year colleges. High school students need to get better grades and higher test scores to get into a 4-year college. At a 4-year college, they will read and write more than at a 2-year college. Their education will be

broader because they will take classes in more subjects. At 2-year colleges, students usually take classes in fewer subjects.

You need to get a 4-year degree before you can study for an advanced degree like a Master's Degree, Medical Degree, or Law Degree.

College students choose a course of study to focus on called a “major.” Students take many of their classes in the field of their major, but not all. For example, you can get an Associate's Degree in nursing. Most of your classes will be about nursing, but not all of them. Or you can get a Bachelor's Degree at a 4-year college in math and you will take more math classes than any other subject.

CUNY is a good option for many immigrants in New York City. CUNY means the City University of New York. CUNY has many 4-year and 2-year colleges across the city. CUNY colleges cost less than other colleges. But, they have many excellent majors and special programs. Many immigrants go to CUNY colleges. CUNY is friendly to immigrants. CUNY is a great place to begin your college search, especially for undocumented students. The CUNY website is cuny.edu.

SUNY is a good option across New York State. SUNY means the State University of New York. SUNY has many 4-year and 2-year colleges. Most are in other parts of New York State, outside New York City. SUNY colleges cost a little more than CUNY and have many majors and programs to choose from. The SUNY website is suny.edu.

Find Colleges on the Internet

Your child will need to spend time online finding out about different colleges. Three good websites to begin the search are:

The College Board
collegeboard.org or bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Peterson's College Search
petersons.com

US News and World Report College Rankings
usnews.com/education

6 Ways To Find Colleges That Are Good For Your Child

1

Help your child to think about their ideas for college.

What are you and your child hoping for in a college? Good colleges will be easier to find when you know what you want in a college and what you don't want.

2

Visit a few colleges with your child each year.

You can learn a lot about the different types of colleges when you visit them. Ask lots of questions. Get advice from college students and the people who work there.

3

Ask your child's guidance counselor and teachers.

They may know some good colleges that match your child's interests and strengths.

4

Go to a "college fair" with your child.

At a college fair, many different colleges come together to meet with high school students. Ask your child's school when the next college fair is.

5

Find books about colleges at the public library.

You can go to the library and ask to see the "college guides." Most are published only in English, but some are in Spanish.

6

Visit college websites.

Most colleges have their own website. There are also websites with information on many colleges. But, most of them are in English.

Your Child's Ideas For College

A good way to start looking for colleges is to know what you want in a college. You can use these questions below to help your child think about what they want in a college. And what they don't want. It is OK if your child doesn't know the answers to some of these questions. And it is OK if the answers to the same question change over time.

Have your child write down answers to these questions on a piece of paper. Use the questions and answers to talk with your child's guidance counselor. Bring them on college visits and to college fairs.

What do you want to study and why?

- ▶ What subjects are you good at now?
- ▶ What subjects do you enjoy the most?
- ▶ What subjects do you want to learn more about?

Look for colleges that are strong in these subjects.

What kind of career do you want?

- ▶ What do you want to do with your life when you graduate from college?
- ▶ Do you have any career goals like being a nurse, making movies, helping people back home, working for the NYC subway, being a teacher, or having your own restaurant?
- ▶ Do you have a dream job that you really want to do?
- ▶ Are there other jobs that you can see yourself doing in a few years?

Look for colleges that help students get these kinds of jobs.

Do you want to try for a 2-year college, a 4-year college, or both?

- ▶ Why do you choose a 2-year school or a 4-year school?

Look for colleges that have the degree program your child wants.

Where do you want to go to college?

- ▶ Do you plan to live at home and go to school in New York City?
- ▶ Do you want to go to college outside New York City, but close by? Or far away from home?
- ▶ Do you want to go to college in a big city or in a rural part of the country?

Look for colleges that are located where you want to go.

What other things are important to you about college?

- ▶ Do you want to go to a college that is just for women?
- ▶ Do you want to be at a college where most of the students and faculty are of African heritage?
- ▶ Do you want to go to a college with many Latinos who speak Spanish?
- ▶ Do you want to be the only immigrant in your class or do you want to be with more people from other countries?
- ▶ Do you want to be at a big school with 50,000 students or a small school of 5,000 students?
- ▶ Do you want to go to a college where you can play a sport or be a part of a club?
- ▶ What else is important to you about your college?

Look for colleges that have things that are important to you.

Visit Colleges With Your Child

You can learn a lot about colleges when you see them in person. Most students who go to college visit a few colleges when they are in 11th or 12th grade. Some visit colleges in 9th and 10th grade, too. It helps them decide which school is right for them.

A college visit can help your child do better in high school and get ready for college. You can bring your child to a college campus to tell them: “This is where you belong.” You can ask what your child needs to do now to help them get into college in the future.

The more colleges you can visit, the better. It is a good idea to visit colleges as soon as possible. Try for 2 or 3 colleges each year during high school. Make sure you see different types of colleges. Try to visit 2-year colleges and 4-year colleges. Look for big colleges and small ones. You should see colleges close to home and colleges further away. You can take the bus or train to see colleges outside New York City.

Bring someone to help you with English.

Bring a friend with a child the same age as yours. You and your child can learn more by listening to their questions and ideas. After the visit, you will have people to talk with about the college.

Use the college’s website to set up a visit. Your child can go online and set up the college visit. College visits are also called “campus tours” or “campus visits.” Some colleges have days when anyone can come for a visit. Other schools will schedule a time just for you. Most campus visits last for 1 or 2 hours. Tours are usually led by students from the college.

Ask questions to see if the college matches your child’s “Ideas for College.” The college may have a “welcome center” or “visitor’s center” where you can go and ask more questions about the college. You can also ask to meet with someone who works in the “Admissions Office.” The Admissions Office decides which high school students get admitted into the college.

After the visit, be sure to ask your child a lot of questions. What did they see and hear? What did they like and what did they not like? How is this college better or worse than others?

What To Do When Your Child Is In Elementary Or Middle School

Now is the right time to start thinking about college for your child. Here are some things you can do.

- ▶ **You can talk to your child about college a lot.** Tell them you expect them to stay in school and graduate from high school. Tell them you expect them to go to college. Listen to what they think about high school and college.
- ▶ **You can visit 1 or 2 colleges with your child.** Listen to what they think about each college.
- ▶ **You can save money in a special savings account for college.** The accounts are called “529 accounts.” Any amount of money you can save will make a difference when your child needs it for college.
- ▶ **You can go to parent-teacher conferences** to talk with teachers about how your child is doing in school. You can tell the teachers that you want your child to go to college.
- ▶ **You can ask your child’s school if there is any extra help** for your child to get ready for high school.
- ▶ **You can call your child’s school to ask for an interpreter before you go to the school.** You can call 311 to get the phone number of the school. You can also ask for written information from the school in your language.



What Your Child Needs To Do To Graduate From High School

Your child can graduate from high school and get a high school diploma. They will need to work hard, pass their classes, and take special big tests called the “Regents” Exams. Going to high school is not enough to graduate.

Your child needs to graduate from high school or get a GED/HSE to get into college. To graduate from high school, your child needs 44 “credits.” Your child also needs to pass five “Regents Exams.”

Credits

Your child needs to earn 44 credits in specific subjects in school to graduate. Credits are like points and you get them from passing classes in high school. Some credits need to be in subjects like math and science, and some even need to be in gym class, which is called physical education. Your child earns one credit for many classes, but they receive only part of a credit for some classes, like physical education. The basic list of the credits your child needs to get is here:

SUBJECT	CREDITS NEEDED	RULES ABOUT THESE CREDITS
English	8 Credits	
Social Studies	8 Credits	4 credits need to be in “Global History,” 2 in “United States History,” 1 in “Government,” 1 in “Economics”
Math	6 Credits	At least 2 credits need to be in advanced math—classes like “Geometry” or “Algebra II & Trigonometry”
Science	6 Credits	2 credits need to be in “life science” like “Living Environment”, 2 need to be in “physical science,” like “Chemistry” or “Earth Science”
Language Other Than English	2 Credits	
Visual Arts, Music, Dance or Theater	2 Credits	
Physical Education (gym class)	4 Credits	
Health	1 Credit	
Elective Courses	7 Credits	“Electives” can include English as a Second Language, advanced classes in some subjects, and extra classes in some subjects, like extra arts or extra math

*The information in this section is current as of June 2014.

You and your child can get help understanding credits from your guidance counselor, or your assistant principal, or principal. Your child's guidance counselor can tell you how many credits your child has and which ones they still need. The guidance counselor can help you make a plan for getting those credits.

Your child can only get credits from passing a class. To pass a class, your child needs to get a 65% or better in the class. To pass a class, your child will need to work hard on their homework and go to the class regularly. Your child's guidance counselor and teacher can tell you how well your child is doing in the class. Some schools use computer programs like "Edline" that let you see how your child is doing. You can ask your child's guidance counselor about this.

If your child went to school in your home country, some of those credits may count for their high school diploma. If your child went to school in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades in your home country, talk to your child's guidance counselor about whether they can get credit from those classes.

Your child still has a chance to graduate even if they are behind on credits. If your child is behind on credits, they can stay in school until age 21 to get more credits. If they are over 21, there is a second chance through the GED/HSE.

Regents Exams

Most students must also pass five different Regents Exams to graduate from high school. The Regents Exams test what students study in their classes. Each Regents test is taken at the end of the class that studies what's on the test. Students need a 65 or higher to pass a Regents Exam.

Most CUNY schools want students to get a 75 or more on the English Regents and a 75 or more as well as an 80 or more on two Math Regents to show that they're ready for college. If your child scores a 65 to pass but below these numbers, they may need to take additional classes.

These 5 Regents Exams must be in certain subjects. To get a regular diploma, called a "Regents Diploma," your child must pass Regents Exams in English, social studies, math, and science. These are the Regents that they must pass:

- 1 **Comprehensive English Regents Exam** (a test on reading and writing in English, which is often tried for the first time in 11th grade)
- 2 **Global History Regents** (a test on world history from a class that usually takes two years)
- 3 **United States History and Government Regents** (a test on USA history)
- 4 **Math: your child needs to pass ONE of these three tests:**
 - Integrated Algebra
 - Geometry
 - Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- 5 **Science: your child needs to pass ONE of these four tests:**
 - Living Environment
 - Chemistry
 - Earth Science
 - Physics

If your child arrived in 11th or 12th grade, they don't have to take all of the Regents Exams. If your child started high school in New York State for the first time in the 11th grade, they do not need to take the Global History Regents Exam to graduate. If they started high school in the 12th grade, they do not need to take the Global History Regents Exam or the science Regents Exam. Speak to your child's guidance counselor about getting this exam waiver.

Most Regents Exams can be taken in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish. If your child is still learning English, ask your guidance counselor what extra help they can get during the Regents exams to help them understand the test. The English Regents Exam must be taken in English.

Your child may be able to get extra help, called "accommodations" during the Regents Exams. Your child may be able to:

- ▶ Get extra time to take the exams
- ▶ Take the test in a smaller classroom
- ▶ Use dictionaries to help them translate English words
- ▶ Have some of the exam read out loud in the language you speak at home



Regents Exams are really important and they are free. The Regents Exams are taken at your child’s school. They are different from the tests colleges ask students to take. Most colleges require high school students to take the SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test – or the ACT.

Your child will need to study a lot for the Regents Exams. The Regents Exams are difficult. You can help by telling your child that they are smart, and you believe they can do it. You also should make sure that they get enough sleep and eat healthy meals during the week they will take the exam so they can do their best. You can also ask your child’s teacher or guidance counselor how to get your child extra help to pass the Regents Exams.

If your child does not pass a Regents Exam, they can try again. Your child can take Regents tests many times. Ask your child’s teacher or guidance counselor how to get extra help.

You can find out how your child is doing on their Regents Exams. Ask your child’s teacher or guidance counselor to see if they have passed.

If your child came very close to passing a Regents Exam, there may be another option called an “appeal.” Ask your child’s guidance counselor if you can appeal.

Other Diplomas

There are types of diplomas other than the “Regents Diploma” that you can get while in high school. They have different requirements. Other types of diplomas are the Advanced Regents Diploma and the Local Diploma.

It is harder to get an Advanced Regents Diploma than a Regents Diploma. Your child can get an Advanced Regents Diploma if they earn extra credits in specific classes and pass extra Regents Exams in math, science, and a foreign language.

The Local Diploma is mainly for students with disabilities. If your child has a disability, talk to your guidance counselor about what your child needs to do to graduate. The requirements are different.

The GED/HSE Diploma is for students who will not be able to complete the requirements for a Regents or Advanced Regents or Local Diploma by the time they turn 21 and for people who never went to school. You can ask your child’s guidance counselor about the “Pathways to Graduation” program that can prepare your child for the GED/HSE diploma if they are between the age of 17 to 21. If your child is older than 21, ask the guidance counselor or dial 311 for information on classes offered by the Office of Adult and Continuing Education to help your child prepare for the GED/HSE.

More Info

Your child can take extra credits and extra Regents Exams to be better prepared for college. Your child can take these credits and Regents exams in classes where they learn about things they want to study in college. They can also take special classes called AP classes. AP stands for Advanced Placement. Your child can take AP exams to show what they learned in their AP classes and that they are extra prepared for college. But, your child does not need to take AP classes or AP exams to graduate. Your child’s guidance counselor can help your child plan which classes to take to be more prepared for college.

Your child can take the Regents Exams in middle school if they are ready. High schools have to count Regents Exams taken in middle school. Your child’s teacher or guidance counselor can help you figure out if your child is ready.

Important Words To Know

Educational Opportunity Program

Provides extra help for students to pay for college and do well in their college classes. Most colleges have an Educational Opportunity Program, but you have to ask for it on the college application and often submit another form. Ask about this program at every college your child is interested in. At CUNY 4-year colleges, this program is called “SEEK” and at CUNY 2-year colleges, this program is called “College Discovery” or “CD.” At private colleges, this is called “HEOP.” Another good program is called “ASAP.”

Financial Aid

Help for families to pay for college. There is free money for college from the government, from many colleges, and from other sources. There are also loans and special jobs for college students. Fill out the FAFSA form and any other forms required by a college to ask for help paying for college.

Financial Planning

Making a plan for how your family will spend the money you earn so that you have enough money for things that are important to you. Start by making a budget. A budget is a list of all the money you earn in a month and everything you spend it on. When you see exactly where your money goes each month, it is easier to save money for important things. Start financial planning for college now.

GED/HSE

The GED means General Educational Development. HSE means High School Equivalency. These are two names for basically the same thing. It is a different type of high school diploma for people who dropped out of school or never went to school. It is also for immigrants who can't go to high school here because they are over 21 years old. To earn a GED/HSE diploma, you must pass a 5-part exam. You can sign up for a free class to study for this exam by calling 311 or talking with your child's guidance counselor.

High School Graduation Requirements

High school students must pass enough of the right classes to earn 44 credits. A student gets 1 credit for each semester for most classes they complete with a final grade of at least 65%. A final grade of 65% or higher is called “passing” a class. Students must also pass 5 big tests called “Regents Exams.” There are Regents Exams in English, math, science, “global” history, and US history. The Regents Exams are given at your child's school and are free. Talk to your child's guidance counselor about what your child needs to do to graduate.

SAT Exam

The SAT means Scholastic Aptitude Test. Most colleges require high school students to take the SAT exam before they apply to college. Many colleges will tell you how high you have to score on the SAT to get into their college. Most students take the exam in the 11th and/or 12th grade. Also, some colleges require other tests called SAT II tests or SAT Subject Tests. The SAT exam is very hard. Most students spend a lot of time studying for it. Your child can also take a practice SAT test called a PSAT in 10th or 11th grade. There is another exam like the SAT that some colleges require. It is called the ACT. Colleges will tell you which test they want students to take.

TOEFL Exam

If your child graduated from high school in another country and is coming to the U.S. to go to college, or if they are an English Language Learner who is new to the country, they can take a test called the TOEFL. If your child is an English Language Learner and graduates from a high school in the U.S., they should take both the SAT Exam and the TOEFL Exam. The TOEFL measures your child's level of English. A good score on the TOEFL exam shows colleges that your child is ready for college.



Questions You Can Ask

At your child's high school

- 1 What does my child have to do to graduate?
- 2 Is there extra help for my child to graduate?
- 3 How can the school help our family get ready for college? Is there a special class or other help?

On a college visit or at a college fair

- 1 How good do my child's grades need to be to get into this college?
- 2 What kinds of classes should my child take in high school?
- 3 Which exams does my child have to take in high school? How high do they need to score on the exams to get into your college?
- 4 Anything else my child should do in high school to get into your college?
- 5 How much can we expect to pay for college with financial aid?
- 6 How many students are in most classes?
- 7 Do students live on campus, at home, or somewhere else?
- 8 Does the college have classes everyone must take? English, math, science, language?
- 9 How many students graduate on time?
- 10 How many students have trouble paying back their loans after they graduate?
- 11 Do you have an "Educational Opportunity Program" or other special program to give extra help to new students? What does my child need to do to get it?
- 12 Are there programs to support my child while they are in college?

Get The Best Help For Your Family

Everyone who goes to college gets some help and advice to get there. Your child deserves the best help you can find to get ready for college.

Ask people at your child's school for help

Talk to your child's guidance counselor or advisor. Ask who at your child's school is in charge of helping with college. Sometimes this is the guidance counselor's job and sometimes this is someone else's – like a teacher's – job. Ask what your child needs to do to graduate and be ready for college. You can ask their teachers for advice on college, too. Ask them about the different types of colleges.



Talk to other parents

Their children need help getting ready for college, too! You can work with other parents as a team. Together, you can ask the principal to start a class like Alcee's College Club.

You can look for help outside the school

Look on the last page for a community organization that can help your family get ready for college. There may be a college counseling or preparation program in your neighborhood. Log onto www.nyc.collegeline.org with your child to find resources and ask people who can help. You can also find help on the National College Access Program Directory website. Click on "Find a Program" and then type in your zip code. It will show you a list of programs near your home. You can show this website to the principal: collegeaccess.org/accessprogramdirectory/

Remember

Your child has the right to a free high school education. Every immigrant child can go to high school for free until they are 21 years old. Citizens, legal permanent residents, and children who don't have legal immigration status can go to high school. Even if your child fails a class or two, they can stay in school until age 21. And when they turn 21, they can finish the school year.

Children who do not speak English can take classes in their home language while they learn English. But, all students must pass an English test called the "Regents English Language Arts Exam" to graduate from high school.

Every child who needs English classes has the right to free classes until they turn 21.

You have the right to an interpreter at your child's school to help you speak with teachers and staff. Call the school to ask for a free interpreter before you go to the school. You can call 311 to get the phone numbers for your child's school.



Community Organizations That Can Help Parents

Asian Americans for Equality

Central Office
108 Norfolk Street
New York, NY 10002
Tel: (212) 979-8381
Email: askaafe@aafe.org
aafe.org

Chinese Progressive Association

230 Grand Street, Suite 504
New York, NY 10013
Tel: (212) 274-1891
Email: cpanyc@cpanyc.org
cpanyc.org

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

50 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Tel: (212) 809-4675
Email: cacf@cacf.org
cacf.org

Metropolitan Russian-American Parents Association

Tel: (718) 415-5912
Email: rusamvlad@yahoo.com

El Centro del Inmigrante

1546 Castleton Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10302
Tel: (718) 420-6466
Email: info@elcentronyc.org
elcentronyces.wordpress.com

Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project

208 Parkside Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11226
Tel: (718) 774-3037
Email: Josmene@flanbwayan.org
flanbwayan.org

La Unión

6025 6th Avenue, Room 221
Brooklyn, NY 11220
Tel: (718) 630-8903
Email: lalanis@la-union.org
la-union.org

Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

665 West 182nd Street,
Ground Floor
New York, NY 10033
Tel: (212) 781-0355
Email: info@nmcir.org
nmcir.org

Child's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Your child needs 44 credits and will need to pass 5 Regents Exams to graduate and get a Regents Diploma

You can use the charts below to see how many credits your child has and how many Exams they've passed. You can ask your child's guidance counselor about getting more credits for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

Your child needs 44 credits in the subjects in this chart

- Ask your child's guidance counselor for a "permanent record" or "transcript."
- Ask your child's guidance counselor for help using the "permanent record" or "transcript" to fill out this chart.
- For each subject, fill in one box for each credit your child has earned. Fill in half a box if they have earned half a credit. Example: If your child has 3 credits in math, fill in 3 boxes in the row for "Math."
- For social studies, fill in the box for each class your child has passed. Each social studies class is one credit.
- When you have filled in the entire chart, your child will have all of the credits they need to graduate.

SUBJECTS YOUR CHILD MUST TAKE	NUMBER OF CREDITS YOUR CHILD ALREADY HAS								TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED
	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	
English	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	8
Social Studies	Global 1	Global 2	Global 3	Global 4	US 1	US 2	Government	Economics	8
Math	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit			6
Science	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit			6
Foreign Language	1 Credit	1 Credit							2
Music/Art	1 Credit	1 Credit							2
Health	1 Credit								1
Physical Education	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit					4
Electives	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit			7

*Current as of June 2014.

Your child needs to pass 5 Regents Exams

- Your child will pass a Regents Exam with a score of 65 or higher.
- Some colleges look for higher scores in English and math, but your child can still go to college with a 65.
- Your child can take any Regents Exam more than once to improve their scores.
- Ask your child's guidance counselor for your child's Regents Exam scores.
- Write your child's highest score for each of the exams they take below and circle whether they passed.

REGENTS	HIGHEST SCORE	PASSED? (65 +)
English		Yes / No
Algebra		Yes / No
Science: _____		Yes / No
US History		Yes / No
Global History		Yes / No

