


Begin discussing future goals with your teen.

- Do his or her future plans include college, a career, homemaking, or the military?
- What post-high school education or training should be considered?
- Would your student like to pursue any alternatives to college?

Have your teen brush up on his or her academic skills.

- Solidify basic math skills and the understanding of fundamental math concepts.
- Focus on using good grammar and increasing vocabulary.
- Develop ability to organize and express ideas through completing many types of writing projects. 

Research curriculum, planning and recordkeeping, and general considerations for homeschooling through high school.

Comprehensive books on these subjects include:

- *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Your Child's Learning Style* by Cathy Duffy
- *Homeschooling High School: Planning Ahead for College Admission* by Jeanne Gowen Dennis
- *Senior High: A Home-Designed Form+U+La* by Barbara Edtl Shelton
- *The High School Handbook: Junior and Senior High School at Home* by Mary Schofield

Develop a four-year blueprint for high school that includes core courses, electives, and outside course options. 

Have your teen begin keeping a reading list in the summer prior to 9th grade. Include books read for academic courses and books read for pleasure. 

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NEED HELP WITH HIGH SCHOOL?

In 2004, inspired by the increasing number of questions from parents wondering if they could homeschool their children through high school, HSLDA hired high school coordinators Becky Cooke and Diane Kummer. Becky and Diane graduated their own children from high school at home, and they bring a wealth of experience and friendly advice to share with families who are navigating these challenging, yet exciting years. We're excited to see how this service to our members has extended to the homeschool movement as a whole, through the Homeschooling Thru High School website and publications.



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**High school services available to HSLDA members.
To join HSLDA, visit hslda.org or call 540-338-5600.**



As a parent homeschooling your teen through high school, you are teacher, scheduler, mentor, and guidance counselor—whew! That sounds like a lot, but as you take on these new roles, you don't have to start from scratch. Many resources are available to help you create a plan to keep your teen on track.

The proposed timeline in this brochure can serve as a convenient, simple framework as you plan for the high school years. In addition to reminding you of major deadlines and important to-dos, it can help you confidently assess your teen's progress toward his or her post-high school goals.

If you are a Home School Legal Defense Association member, our high school coordinators are available to provide suggestions and one-on-one assistance as you guide your student through the high school years and on to his or her future endeavors.

This brochure is just a starting point—we've gathered together the details you'll need for customizing each timeline point for *your child* on our online resource page: www.hslda.org/highschool/keepingontrack/links. The  indicates related links on the resource page.

BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL

Get ahead of the game! During your teen's junior high years, help your student become academically prepared for high school, work with him to set goals, and make a plan to reach those goals.







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FRESHMAN YEAR


A new era in your teen's life has begun! Encourage him or her to make the most of the next four years.

Plan academics.

- Select courses—what, when, and where will they be taken? 
- Teach study and note-taking skills. 
- Work with your teen on prioritizing his schedule and managing his time. 
- Research college admissions tests—the SAT and ACT. 


Investigate non-academic opportunities.

- Help your teen choose a variety, including extracurricular, volunteer and service, and employment.
- Encourage your student to participate in activities that build leadership skills.
- Keep records of these activities (dates, hours, duties, and supervisors' contact info).

Begin researching careers at the library and online. Consider consolidating these research activities into a career development elective and having your teen take a career test. 

Involve your teen in saving for college or other future endeavors through savings accounts or other types of investments (CDs, stocks, mutual funds, etc.). A financial management course could be another valuable elective.

Have your student add to reading list. 

Create a transcript for high school courses taken in 9th grade. 

SOPHOMORE YEAR




Your teen continues to make adjustments and grow. Give him increased responsibility and cheer him on!

Consider an outside class or two—online, co-op, or community college course. Include more advanced courses if appropriate.


SOPHOMORE YEAR

Continue with extracurricular activities.

If college is the next step, your teen will need to:

- Prepare for and take the PSAT/NMSQT (first year for practice only). Use practice test books, available at libraries and bookstores. Register for the PSAT at a nearby public or private high school.
- Prepare for and take the SAT or ACT.
 - Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry
 - Register for the SAT—the homeschool code is 970000—or for the ACT—the code is 969999. 
 - Research college requirements. 
 - Begin exploring college websites and take virtual tours. 
 - Attend a college fair.

If a career or the military is the next step, your teen will need to:

- Consider a short- or long-term internship in a field of interest. It may be formal or informal.
- Research career and military possibilities. Have your teen talk to people in fields of interest and read about various careers. 

Have your student update reading list. 

Record 10th-grade courses on transcript. 


JUNIOR YEAR

The junior year is a time to explore options and begin firming up future plans.

Stress academics.

- Consider community college courses; take advantage of dual enrollment.
- Employ tutors if extra help is required.
- Use video/DVD courses or sign up for online courses if needed.
- Consider AP courses if appropriate; prepare for spring AP exams.


JUNIOR YEAR

Help your teen create a personal resume.  Be sure to include:

- Work experience
- Community service/volunteering
- Extracurricular activities
- Awards and honors
- Travel

Talk to your teen about summer enrichment activities such as an internship, job, or volunteer opportunity.

If college is the next step, your teen will need to:

- Plan to again take the PSAT/NMSQT (to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship).
- Prepare to again take the SAT or ACT to increase scores.
- Narrow list of prospective colleges and visit college campuses.
- Investigate financial aid and scholarships. 
 - Government financial aid (fill out the Federal Application for Free Student Aid)
 - State financial aid
 - Scholarships awarded by colleges of choice
 - Community scholarships

If a career or the military is the next step, your teen will need to:

- Consider taking a career test.
- Take extra high school courses in area of interest.
- Investigate internships in area of interest.
- Participate in extracurricular activities related to future goals.

Have your student update reading list. 

Record 11th-grade courses on transcript. 

SENIOR YEAR

Not only does the senior year mark the end of high school, but graduation signals the commencement of brand-new opportunities. Encourage your teen to finish strong!

SENIOR YEAR

(continued)

Continue to stress academics, including courses of special interest to your teen.

Have your student update and finalize resume. 

If college is the next step, your teen will need to:


- Take the SAT or ACT in the fall for the final time, if desired.
- Complete college applications.
 - Access online or mail a hard copy.
 - Write essays.
 - Request that test scores be sent from the College Board or ACT.
 - Request letters of recommendation (at least three weeks in advance of application deadline).
 - Attach final transcript.
- Fill out financial aid and scholarship forms.
- Respond to letters of acceptance.
 - Notify colleges of private scholarship awards.
 - Complete tuition, housing, and meal forms for college of choice.

If a career or the military is the next step, have your teen:

- Network; research job opportunities.
- Practice interview skills.
- Seek job/recruiter interviews.
- For military entrance, plan and practice for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test.

Have your student update reading list. 

Finalize transcript. 

Award diploma  and plan a graduation celebration with family and friends. You've earned it!

CONCLUSION: THE ROAD AHEAD

By planning ahead for high school and taking advantage of learning and work opportunities, your teen can be well prepared for his or her next step.



For online resource list, go to www.hslda.org/highschool/keepingontrack/links.