



The beginning of 9th grade is an exciting time. Students may be making new friends and becoming more independent. But it's still important to get the help and involvement of a parent or guardian. Here are some things you can do together to succeed this year.

SUMMER

- ❑ **Visit a college campus together.** It's a great way to get excited about college. Learn more about how you can [prepare for a campus visit](#).
- ❑ **Come up with fun reading ideas.** Look for and select literature that you enjoy and talk about it together. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.
- ❑ **Explore career interests together.** Students can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how students can use [CareerExplorer.com](#) to explore careers.
- ❑ **Get the facts about what college costs.** You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading about [Paying for College](#).

FALL

- ❑ **Set goals for the year.** Working toward specific goals will help students and families stay motivated and focused.
- ❑ **Review the school & GEAR UP calendars together.** Note important dates and put them in a shared online calendar or in an easy-to-view place, such as a refrigerator. Check out [GEAR UP's website](#) for upcoming events.
- ❑ **Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork.** Using your [myDSD](#) or [MyWeber](#) account, parents can keep up with a child's tests, papers and homework assignments, and celebrate successes and address problems as a team. Get [homework tips](#) and find ways to students can [overcome test anxiety and improve their academic skill set](#).
- ❑ **Talk about extracurricular activities.** Getting involved in GEAR UP, clubs, and other groups is a great way for a student to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about [the benefits of extracurriculars](#) and find out how to [get involved in GEAR UP](#).
- ❑ **Set up an appointment for you and your child to meet with their school counselor and GEAR UP advisor.** Talk about college and career options, discuss how to earn college credit in high school, and learn about the most-appropriate classes your child should take. Find out who the [GEAR UP advisor at your school](#) is.

WINTER

- ❑ **Start thinking about financial aid.** It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#).
- ❑ **Learn what you can do to help your child prepare to apply for the Regents' Scholarship.** Recipients of this scholarship earn a degree at double the rate of their peers. To be eligible, students must meet all scholarship requirements beginning in 9th grade.
- ❑ **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your child is challenging him- or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the [high school classes that colleges look for](#).

SPRING

- **Start preparing for the New Century Scholarship.** Scholarships are an important tool for paying for college. It's never too early to start preparing and applying for scholarships.
- **Start a college list.** Visit [College Search Step-by-Step](#) together to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to your child when choosing a college.
- **See how much you need to save for college.** Use the [College Savings Calculator](#) to get an idea of where you are compared with your savings goal.
- **Learn how students can earn college credit in high school.** Students who take and succeed in college classes such as [Concurrent Enrollment \(CE\)](#) or [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) can save time and money by earning college credit before graduating from high school.
- **Make summer plans that include participating in GEAR UP activities.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways students can [stay motivated this summer](#) and get involved in [community](#) and [GEAR UP activities](#).
- **Open a college savings account.** Students can open an account to start saving for college. Learn more at [my529.org](#). If you already have a saving account, contribute what you can to it.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

GEAR UP is here to assist Undocumented Students with or without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in every way possible, and are committed to their success. You and your student should meet with your [GEAR UP advisor](#) regularly to find out how to apply for colleges and what scholarships are available to them, and refer to the guidelines and resources below.

- **Applying for College.** Utah House Bill 144 allows qualifying undocumented students to pay the same tuition as Utah residents do at any Utah college or university. Those who meet the requirements of HB 144 must print and fill out the [Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit](#) and submit it to the admission office of the Utah college they wish to attend. Affidavits and instructions can be found on each college's website by searching for the term "HB-144 affidavit."
- **Strongly consider taking college classes in high school.** Students who take and succeed in college classes such as [Concurrent Enrollment \(CE\)](#) or [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) can save time and money by earning college credit before graduating from high school.
- **Paying for College.** Dreamers can apply for scholarships to help pay for college. To learn more about what scholarships are available for undocumented, DACA, and non-FAFSA eligible students, talk to your GEAR UP advisor and visit the Undocumented Student Resources web pages for [Weber State University](#) and [EDÚCATE UTAH](#)
- **Additional Resources:** [Dreamers Road Map](#), [Educate Utah](#), [My Undocumented Life](#)

****Note:** The *online version* of this Family Action Plan allows you to click on the [yellow text](#) above to access important resources/websites**

Visit weber.edu/stategearup/students.html for more info.