

- 1** Start early. Begin with conversations about what your child wants to do after high school. Who does your child want to be? What does your child want to do? Discussing college and careers shows that you care about your child's future after high school.
- 2** Discuss college as an option after high school. Listen to your child's hopes and dreams to find out what they enjoy. Would college be a good fit?
- 3** Be supportive of your child's interests, even if your ideas are different. Help them discover their talent and potential.
- 4** Stress the value of education and a strong work ethic often. Every paper, every assignment, every chore matters as your child learns to make responsible decisions that will transfer to a successful future, in college or a career.
- 5** Talk about how college is more than continuing their education and is the necessary step to earn and keep a quality job. Talk about money and salaries. Look up salaries using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' website and talk about different majors in college that will lead to good jobs.
- 6** Have fun dreaming and exploring different career options and talk about which college majors best fit their goals.
- 7** Talk with your child about college resources that are already available in school for free: college visits, FAFSA completion nights, career expos, college application days, tutoring and study programs, concurrent enrollment opportunities, job shadows, mentoring, internships and more.
- 8** Take your child to visit college campuses, even to schools your child may not attend. Seeing the campus, visiting a class and talking with students and advisors will help your child understand what it will be like to be a college student.
- 9** In all the excitement about talking about and planning for college, make sure to have honest discussions about the cost of college. Talk with your student about the importance of filling out the FAFSA form, applying for scholarships and learning more about what financial aid might be available. See the DPS Financial Advice handout for more information.
- 10** Denver Public Schools has a number of programs designed to help students explore college and career options. To learn more visit: psr.dpsk12.org/collegecareer-readiness



The Office of Family Engagement (FACE) educates, empowers and engages students, parents, families and community members to ensure the academic success of every child. FACE offers trainings and resources for parents and families in communication, leadership, conflict resolution, and more.

To learn more about FACE and its programs, visit face.dpsk12.org.

For concerns or questions about FACE or DPS, call 720.423.3054.

