

# College Checklist & Resources for Parents and Students

## Norwood High School



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Opportunity  
Scholarship Initiative

It's never too soon to start preparing for college! Below is a list of items you and your student can complete together.

### Pre-High School

- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. Celebrate good grades and help your student address academic concerns.
- Start helping your student save for college by opening a savings account. Your local bank can answer questions and help you open a 529 college savings plan. More information about 529 college savings plans can be found at: <https://www.collegeinvest.org/?pageid=67>
- Take PSAT if available.
- My Colorado Journey: Have your student create an account with My Colorado Journey at <https://www.mycoloradojourney.com>. There is a High School Planning timeline, starting in 7th grade.

### 9th Grade

- Continue saving for college.
- Encourage your student to keep up their grades and attendance. Grades make a difference to colleges and scholarship funders.
- Start asking your student to show you their grades periodically. He/she can access them online.
- (This applies to 9th - 12th grade): If your student is struggling in a subject, ASK FOR HELP! Find out the teachers' name, have your student make an appointment with that teacher to see how he/she can bring up their grade.
- Take PSAT if available.

### 10th Grade

- Continue saving for college.
- Encourage your student to take the PSAT, and then make an extra effort to study for those areas where they are weakest. Test scores and grades matter to colleges and scholarship funders.

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### 11th Grade

- Continue saving for college.
- Have your student start preparing for the SAT or ACT in August
- Make sure your student is meeting with Rick Williams, College Counselor for Norwood High School, to discuss college applications.
- Have your student meet with True North Youth Program to search for available scholarships and other financial aid.
- Your student should take the SAT or ACT in December or April. Mark the date on your calendar and make sure your student has a good night's sleep and a good meal the night before!

### The Summer Before 12th Grade

- Visit local colleges together if possible. Make the most of your trip by visiting this site: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist>
- You can also take a virtual tour of each college. Learn more at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/10-ways-to-learn-about-colleges-online>
- Start applying for colleges in July/August

### 12th Grade

- Continue saving for college.
- Make sure your student is meeting with Rick Williams to apply for college.
- Apply for scholarships all year long when they are available.
- Make sure you and your student fills out and files the FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov) starting on October 1st. This will determine how much your student is eligible for in grants (that do not have to be paid back) and loans (some of which are special low-interest), and will help your family determine an "EFC" or Expected Family Contribution.
- More information on the FAFSA can be found at: [https://www.collegeincolorado.org/Financial\\_Aid\\_Planning/Financial\\_Aid\\_101/FAFSA\\_is\\_the\\_key.aspx](https://www.collegeincolorado.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/Financial_Aid_101/FAFSA_is_the_key.aspx)
- True North Youth Program is happy to talk both student and parents if they have questions or concerns about completing or sending in the FAFSA financial aid form. Every circumstance is different, so please contact us. The FAFSA financial aid form must be completed by both the student and the parent.
- If your student is on ASSET, DACA, or is undocumented, please visit the following site to learn about financial aid options for your student: <https://www.ciccoloradoasset.org/>

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### What sets student applicants apart for admissions officers and scholarship committees?

- Grades
- Test scores (SAT / ACT)
- Meaningful participation in community service
- Holding a job
- The good recommendation of employers, teachers, coaches, and other adults in the community
- Meaningful participation in extracurricular and leadership activities

### Career Exploration Websites:

- <https://www.myplan.com/assess/values/pg1.php>
- <https://www.truity.com/view/tests/personality-career>

### More College and Career Planning Websites:

- <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- <http://scholarprep.org/>

*True North is at Nucla High School every Thursday to assist with scholarship applications, essays, and any aspect of the college going process. True North staff are also available by appointment.*

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*Adapted from the Parent Checklist at <https://dccc.org/parents/parent-checklist> and the checklist at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents>*