



Beginning in elementary school, I Know I Can College Advisors and volunteers encourage students like you to dream big, work hard, and achieve your dream of going to college.

To help you reach your goal, I Know I Can will provide all the tools you need to make college a reality. From advice on preparing for college to information on applying and paying for it, we'll be right by your side throughout the journey.

Please visit **[iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org)** and **[columbus.k12.oh.us](http://columbus.k12.oh.us)** for more information and resources.



DREAM BIG. WORK HARD. WE'LL HELP.™

The I Know I Can College Planning Checklist is designed to help you make the most of your time in school and to prepare you for college. It's never too soon to start planning your future!



## 6th Grade College Planning Checklist

- Go to school every day. You can't learn if you're not there.
- Attend Blueprint: College workshops with your family to learn more about getting ready for college after high school and how to make the most of your high school years.
- Finish your homework and develop good study habits to get the best grades you can.
- Read books, magazines and newspapers regularly. College bound students read one book per month outside of class assignments.
- Practice your spelling, grammar and writing skills. It will pay off when you need to write your college and scholarship essays.
- Use the computer to help you with class projects, homework assignments or your college planning.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs or camps during school and summer breaks. Talk to your counselor for more details.
- Look over your PAARC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) scores so you can see what subjects you excel in and what areas you need to work on.
- Start saving money for college. Even though you might not have much of an income yet, get into the habit of saving even a little of what you do have.
- Ask your parents to look into saving money for college through a 529 plan or an Individual Development Account (IDA) which allows them to invest in your education tax free.
- Talk to people you know who attend college. Ask them what it's like. Ask what they had to do to get there. Ask them to help you get there.
- Explore Naviance to learn more about your personal interests and match those with college and careers that you may want to pursue in the future. Set goals for your future and learn how to achieve them.
- Make a list of school activities that interest you and add them to your college binder. Ask a teacher or counselor to help you get involved.
- Visit [iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org) for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.
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