



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!

A blue speech bubble containing the text "i know i can" in white lowercase letters.

i know  
i can

## 9th Grade College Planning Checklist

- Attend Blueprint: College workshops with your family to learn more about getting ready for college and how to make the most of your high school years.
- Grades count! The higher your GPA, the better your chances of getting into college and receiving scholarships.
- Work with your counselor to plan out your coursework. Learn about the admissions requirements for colleges you are interested in so you can make wise decisions in your course planning.
- Talk to your counselor now about programs that allow you to earn college credit while in high school.
- Read whenever and whatever you can—books, magazines, newspapers. Try to read about 30 minutes a day outside of school work.
- Use computers to help with your classwork and take advantage of all the information available on the Internet to keep you up to date on the world around you.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment activities. Ask your counselor or IKIC College Advisor for details.
- Continue to use a planner for school assignments and important deadlines.
- Explore extracurricular activities such as school clubs, student government, sports, church programs and volunteer opportunities in your community. Your life outside of school is important to colleges and improves your chances of receiving a scholarship.
- Explore Naviance and research the subjects and careers you're interested in. Set future goals and learn about the things you need to begin working on now to achieve these goals.
- Meet with your I Know I Can College Advisor to talk about and begin planning for your future.
- Continue writing in your college binder. Update your lists of careers, activities and subjects that interest you as they change and grow. Add a list of colleges and majors that interest you.
- CCS students are required to complete 120 internship hours to graduate. Ask your counselor about internship opportunities and keep track of these hours in your college binder.
- Try to increase your college savings. Ask adults at school about summer job opportunities for students your age. Put half of what you earn in your college fund.
- Seek the advice of your teachers and counselors about your college and career interests. Find people who have careers that interest you and ask to job shadow them for a day.
- Visit [iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org) for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.