



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

## 8th Grade College Planning Checklist

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Complete and turn in every homework assignment on time. Get help if you need it. There are no excuses when you get to college.
- ❑ Do the best you can in all of your classes. Make sure you know which classes this year will show up on your high school transcript. Talk to your counselor.
- ❑ Don't be afraid of the challenging courses. Enroll in courses that prepare you for college—Math, Science, Foreign Languages, English, Social Studies and Fine Arts.
- ❑ Limit the amount of video games you play, TV you watch and time you spend on the phone. When you do watch, explore educational programs on history, science and the arts. It's an easy and interesting way to learn something new. You can also use the Internet to find out more about what's going on in the world.
- ❑ Get involved in school activities that you enjoy and that matter to you. Think about becoming active in your community as well.
- ❑ Begin thinking about what courses you'd like to take in High School and how this will affect your future in college
- ❑ Use your planner to keep track of important deadlines, meetings and assignments. Keep important documents in a folder so they don't get lost.
- ❑ Practice outlining and taking notes when you are reading. When you finish reading an assignment, summarize what you have read. In addition to class assignments, read as much and as often as you can—books, magazines and newspapers.
- ❑ Participate in summer enrichment programs. Research them on the Internet and ask your counselor for details. Deadlines are usually in the spring.
- ❑ Be familiar with your PAARC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) scores over the past three years and use them to help you prepare for your high school classes.
- ❑ Conduct more research for your Naviance profile on colleges, careers, subjects and activities you are interested in. Talk to your counselor or I Know I Can advisor about your plans for the future.
- ❑ Save for college. Try to increase your weekly or monthly goal. Consider opening a savings account at a bank to keep your college fund safe.
- ❑ CCS students are required to complete 120 internship hours to graduate from high school. Ask your counselor about internship opportunities and keep track of these hours in your college binder.
- ❑ Visit [iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org) for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.