



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** and **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 for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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!



7th 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.
- Go to school every day. Good attendance helps you get good grades.
- Commit to at least 30 minutes a day of reading outside of class assignments.
- Add different colleges and careers to your Naviance profile. Write down questions and facts about each. Talk to adults who have careers you are interested in.
- Improve your outlining and note-taking skills while you are in class and doing homework.
- Get organized with a planner and folders to keep track of assignments and class papers.
- Get involved in school activities that interest you or in your community. Ask a teacher or counselor for help.
- Use the computer to help with class assignments and projects.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs. Ask your counselor about these options.
- Review this year and last year's PAARC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) scores and set goals for how you can improve in the 8th grade.
- Find a mentor or caring adult with whom you can meet regularly. Talk to them about your goals and have them help you plan ways to reach them.
- Save money for college. Start collecting coins and putting them in a piggy bank, this will add up faster than you think.
- Make friends with classmates who also plan to go to college. Share your college goals with one another.
- Visit iknowican.org for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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 for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.

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 for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.

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!



i know
i can

10th 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.
- Do your best in every class. Good grades will help you get into college and get scholarships to pay for it.
- Make sure you take challenging courses that cover all the requirements for graduation and college admission including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Phys. Ed./Health and Technology, as well as your Elective and Internship credits.
- Consider Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEs) and early college programs that allow you to earn college credit while in high school. Talk to a counselor to learn more about these options and opportunities presented by career centers.
- Keep reading—not just books, but newspapers and magazines as well. Relate the reading to your life and learn more about subjects and people that interest you.
- Take advantage of all the information that is at your fingertips on the Internet.
- Get involved in activities that matter to you, both in and out of school.
- 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 them. Talk with your parents about the goals you have set.
- Meet with your I Know I Can College Advisor to talk about and begin planning for your future.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment programs. Ask your IKIC College Advisor or counselor for details.
- In preparation for the ACT next year, start looking into ACT prep classes in the fall and/or start reserving ACT study books from the library. Ask your counselor or IKIC College Advisor for more information.
- Continue to use your student planner so you don't miss important deadlines and separate class folders to keep your assignments (and life) organized.
- Meet with your IKIC College Advisors and school counselors often to discuss your college and career goals.
- Keep a record of your high school internship requirements in your college binder.
- Visit colleges near your home or when you travel. Keep notes in your college binder on what you like or dislike about each college.

continued on back...

- Keep saving for college. Get a summer job and put half of what you earn in your college fund.
- If you are interested in going to college at a military academy, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- Prepare for the Ohio Graduation Test in October. Talk with your teachers for tools and tips for success.
- Attend the Kiwanis College Fair and meet with your IKIC Advisor to begin your college research.
- Visit iknowican.org for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



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!

i know
i can

11th Grade College Planning Checklist

FALL

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Consult with your IKIC College Advisor and school counselor, who are there to offer advice and assistance to achieve your college goals.
- ❑ It's never too late to improve your grades. Colleges consider improvements in performance as well as grades.
- ❑ Sign up to meet with college representatives who visit your high school. Check I Know I Can's website for college tours or visits scheduled at the IKIC office.
- ❑ Register and prepare to take the ACT and/or SAT this year. By taking them early, you will have the opportunity to re-take them and improve your scores, if desired, before college applications are due. Talk to your I Know I Can College Advisor about prep courses and fee waivers for each test.
- ❑ Attend local college fairs. See your counselor for dates and times.
- ❑ If you are interested in one of the military academies, start the application process now. See your counselor for assistance.
- ❑ Develop your leadership skills by taking on more responsibility in your groups and activities. Participate in projects that help your school or community.
- ❑ Make sure you are enrolled in challenging courses required for graduation and college admission including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Phys. Ed. /Health and Technology, as well as your Elective and Internship credits.
- ❑ It's not too late to consider College Credit Plus (CCP) and early college programs, which allow you to earn college credit while in high school.
- ❑ When you plan your senior class schedule, sign up for a full course load, including those courses you still need to graduate and prepare for college. If you make it a bit tougher on yourself now, you'll have an easier time later.
- ❑ Keep up with current events by reading whenever you can.
- ❑ Use the computer to help make the most of your time, and stay informed by using the Internet to gather information from a variety of sources.
- ❑ This year has a lot of deadlines. Be sure to keep things up to date in your student planner so you can stay on top of school work and extracurricular commitments.
- ❑ Attend the Blueprint: College High School workshops with your parents.
- ❑ Talk with you school counselor or IKIC advisor about taking the PSAT and how those results can lead to scholarship opportunities in the future.

continued on back...

- Prepare for and take the ACT and SAT at least once in preparation for college applications and scholarships.
- Explore Naviance and begin aligning your future goals with the colleges that will help you reach them. Meet with you I Know I Can advisor to help guide you in your research.

□ _____

WINTER

- If you haven't done so yet, register for the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Start thinking seriously about where you would like to go to college. Consider size, cost, location and academic programs.
- Visit colleges that you are considering. Talk to students and alumni from those colleges about their experiences.
- Research information about scholarships and financial aid. Keep a list of possible scholarships and their requirements in your college binder.
- Attend a Save Smart Individual Development Account information session with your parents/guardian.

□ _____

SPRING

- Take the ACT or SAT and discuss your scores with your counselor.
- Apply for a summer job and save most of your earnings for college. Be prepared to pay for college application and test fees in the fall.
- Even though it's a busy time, read, read, read—books, newspapers, magazines. Many are available online.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment programs. Ask your IKIC College Advisor or school counselor for more details.
- Create a list for your college binder including your high school sports, clubs, work and community service experiences along with honors, awards and AP or CCP classes. These will be important to include on college and scholarship applications. Ask you IKIC College Advisor or school counselor for help.
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you are interested in participating in college sports. See your high school Athletic Director for details.
- Explore Naviance and begin aligning your future goals with the colleges that will help you reach them. Meet with your I Know I Can advisor to help guide you in your research.
- Attend I Know I Can's ACT Bootcamp over the summer to reach your greatest ACT score potential.

□ _____

SUMMER

- Register for the ACT or SAT if you are seeking a higher score.
- Look into college tours and visits you can make during your summer break.
- Narrow down your college list to about 4-6 schools.
- Begin your scholarship search—look at iknowican.org/scholarships for a full list.
- Begin writing college essays and looking at college websites for their academic and admission requirements. Note these in your college binder.
- Visit iknowican.org for more strategies and tips on how to complete this list.

