



GEAR UP Monthly Minute

News & information about
planning after high school

March 2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges are two-year schools that provide affordable postsecondary education as a pathway to a four-year degree. Check out this article by [College Board](#) about community colleges.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Students who miss more than 10% of school days in one year are considered chronically absent. Students miss school for a variety of reasons: illness, doctor's appointments, vacations, or skipping classes because of lack of interest or success. Regardless of the reason, the effects are real.

Why Does It Matter?

- Studies show that missing school can be linked directly to reading poorly, failing at math and flunking too many credits to graduate.
- In a Utah study, chronic absence in ANY ONE YEAR between grades 8-12 makes students 7.5 times more likely to drop out.
- Chronic absence is a key indicator of delinquency and future failure.
- A study of 21,000 students in Illinois found that absenteeism, not standardized test scores, could be used to pinpoint which students would fail multiple classes in freshman year — and which would earn a diploma. Once freshmen missed 10 percent of school days, their odds of graduating dropped below 40 percent.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Insist on regular, prompt attendance and reward your student's good behavior. Encourage your student to get involved at school with a club or activity, and talk to the school about other positive intervention programs.

Source: Practical Leadership

FAMILY CHECKLIST

Make sure your student gets adequate sleep so he will be awake and on-time for school. Don't allow your student to stay home unless they are truly sick, and make sure your student is not skipping classes. Reward your student for regularly attending and passing classes, rather than punishing him for skipping classes.

- Encourage your student to get involved. Students who are more engaged with school clubs and activities are more likely to attend regularly. Help your student explore activities such as sports, school government, or clubs.
- Talk to the school. If attendance is still an issue, talk to the school counselor or administrators about additional ways to improve attendance, including asking them to call you directly, offer rewards at the class or school level, or other positive intervention programs.

Questions? Ask us!

Do you have questions about financial aid, college admissions, graduation requirements, or anything else related to your student's postsecondary success? Ask us using the link to the left.

 [Click Here](#)

INSTAGRAM

@gearup_appalachian



"The GEAR UP Coordinators tab in the link in our bio will take you to the list of our GEAR UP Coordinators. Find yours, and save their email so you can reach out to them when you have any questions."



"I remember reading the whole Twilight series in one summer, and I don't regret it one bit! Also, check out our book recommendations if you want to get your summer reading started now!"

COLLEGE MYTHS & REALITIES:

MYTH: College classes don't take attendance, so students can skip class.

REALITY: It is true that many college classes don't take attendance, although that is starting to change with increased use of "clickers" - technology that polls an entire class, no matter the size. However, going to class is critical to learn and review material and ask questions. And remind your student that's why she is in college - to learn in class!

EXTRA CREDIT:

[7 Compelling Reasons Why You Should Go To College](#)

DID YOU KNOW:



Student engagement in school decreases each year from 5th-12th grades, which plays a role in student attendance.

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