



Expectation Graduation's Graduation Game Plan *User Guide*

WHAT IS THE GAME PLAN?

The Game Plan guides students' planning for graduation from high school, preparation for post-secondary education and career selection process, access to positive out of school opportunities and financial aid. In addition, it gives students general advice on resume and job interview preparation.

The Graduation Game Plan is composed of four sections:

- Graduate High School
- Prepare for the Life after High School
- Get the Workforce Skills You Need
- Manage Yourself Effectively

GETTING STARTED

The first two pages should guide the conversations that will continue over the next four sections. A support team of family members, teachers or people from the student's place of worship should be identified to help them accomplish their goals. This includes making sure they know how to contact their school counselor.

Next, identify subjects and careers of interest. Brainstorm about possible careers based on the student's favorite courses. This will help the student identify colleges the student is interested in and help them determine the appropriate field of study.

Finally, talk to them about their required Texas Graduation Plan. This is what determines the courses they take in school. It is important that they see this decision as a step that prepares them for their future goals. If a student is eligible to choose to participate in more challenging classes they should be encouraged to take advantage of those opportunities.

The purpose of the Graduation Game Plan is to help students have positive conversations about their life after high school and set goals. It will take time to fill out the guide since some of the information will require a little bit of research. Also, many of the concepts included may need to be explained to students. However, this guide will help you provide them guidance and additional resources are available on-line at www.expectationgraduation.org/gameplan.



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Section One: GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

Poor attendance the # 1 predictor of students who drop out. In the first section, the students should understand the importance of attending class. The more a student is absent from class, the further behind they fall and the harder it will be for them to catch up. Adults should talk to them about the importance of attending class regularly, taking good notes, studying hard, meeting with counselors, having mentors and turning in completed assignments. Help students understand that setting goals and prioritizing them are skills that will be required by any job or career they seek.

Talk to them about the importance of setting goals, share personal examples and ask them about some of the goals they have set and accomplished in life.

Section Two: PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

In the second section, students get organized as they prepare for their life after high school. This section provides job, resume and financial aid guidance to students and provides a place to start planning for college/universities' open houses and student events. Attending these events will help students in their college search and career options. **It is never too early to start.** If possible, students should plan to attend one with a family member or a mentor. If the student is a senior in high school, they should fill out a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) application by the end of January. The earlier they fill it out, the better their chances are at receiving scholarships and grants from the government. Talk to them about how extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering and mentoring can help them develop their resume.

Make sure students understand how to get a hold of admissions counselors and search for student events.

Section Three: GET THE WORKFORCE SKILLS YOU NEED

In the third section, focus on how to gain the workforce skills in order to be competitive applicants and successful workers. Brainstorm and research careers of interest and learn about them by arrainging interactive experiences including volunteering and internship opportunities. **To be much more eager to volunteer and intern, students will have to understand their connection to their stated careers of interest.** Students should also understand the importance of computer skills today and are encouraged to continually learn after graduation. Students may jot down several things they are interested in learning about and ways in which they can. In addition, it is crucial for them to learn how to act and dress in the work place. The following page is an explanation of how to apply and dress.

Try to do some rehearsals with students.

Section Four: MANAGE YOURSELF EFFECTIVELY

In the final section, discuss the personal management and organizational skills necessary to succeed. **Discuss organizational skills such as using a calendar and to-do lists in order to be on track and avoid stress.** Students are encouraged to become organized and know how to prioritize. If students remain positive, keep a healthy diet and lifestyle, exercise regularly, and apply effective study techniques to achieve their goals they can increase their odds of success.

Help them get started creating their own calendar and to-do list.