

Family and Mentor Quick Guide: Supporting Your Student In Building a Balanced College List






Before You Start - Key Areas of Focus To Guide Your Process

Personal: Encourage your student to center on their values

Academic: Your students' academic record and their future career hopes will share the schools and majors they consider.

Institution: Building a list of college matches should include research on graduation rates and other outcome metrics.

Affordability: College is an investment, and one that should be considered through the student's personal situation.

STEP	WHAT	THE WHY AND HOW	WHEN
01	Encourage Forward Planning 	<p>WHY: Time is your best resource in any situation. By asking the right questions and pointing to the right tools, your student can build a high quality list that is unique to their interests, needs, and situation</p> <p>HOW: Your student can sign up for myOptions at students.myoptions.org and begin building their list of 25 colleges</p>	As soon as your student identifies as college-bound
02	Support Self-exploration and Self-reflection 	<p>WHY: You want what is best for students and you know your student well. Encourage them to understand what they want and need, and engage in conversation about the guiding questions for these conversations.</p> <p>HOW: Be sure to know what the important dates and processes are from their school and encourage your student to connect with their counselor.</p>	<p>At least 12 weeks before the application deadline</p> <p>TIP: This process evolves. It is important to continue to be open to ideas as you go through steps 3 - 5.</p>
03	Get and Give Advice 	<p>WHY: There is a lot of noise on the internet. It is crucial that you receive thoughtful, honest and timely advice, and share your lived experience and perspective with your student.</p> <p>HOW: Explore the advice blog right and family/mentor resources at myOptions.org.</p>	Ongoing - Encourage your student to get advice at least 10 weeks before application deadline
04	Be Available 	<p>WHY: You have a lot going on, but you also want to be part of this process. As your students embarks on college planning, have a conversation about how they want or need you to be involved.</p> <p>HOW: Encourage your student to add you as a mentor on their myOptions account so you can monitor their progress and know what is to come.</p>	Ongoing - Have this conversation with your student at least 8 weeks before the application deadline
05	Know What's Next 	<p>WHY: The college process follows the same general calendar of timelines. By knowing what is to come you can help your student be prepared for all the steps in the process.</p> <p>HOW: Use the myOptions checklist for important dates and timelines and connect with your student's school to know their processes.</p>	At least 6 weeks before application deadline

For more information, visit us at
<https://myoptions.org/parent-mentor-hub/>