

## Why does my child need a post-high school plan?

Did you know that.....

- ✓ 48 of the 50 fastest growing jobs in the U.S. require post-high school education?
- ✓ People who don't participate in post-high school training are three times more likely to be unemployed than those who have some post-high school training?
- ✓ People who have some post-high school training earn more money, and have more opportunity for advancement than those who only have a high school diploma?
- ✓ Freshmen entering college without a career goal or academic major in mind have higher college dropout rates?
- ✓ If your child has a solid plan for life after high school, chances for success in post-high school education increase?

Post-high school planning should begin in middle school!



You and your child should start creating a post-high school plan while your child is in **middle school**. It is important to start early because the classes your child takes in high school will affect his or her ability to enter post-high school training programs. Together, you and your child can create

a plan that will make the transition from high school to post-high school education smooth and easy.

Parents and their children

often make the **mistake** of focusing

on a **degree** rather than a

**Career**

Remember that a degree is not the ticket to a career

**PLANNING IS KEY!**

For more information:

Rhode Island Labor Market Information  
[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education - [www.ribghe.org](http://www.ribghe.org)

Rhode Island Student Loan Authority  
[www.collegeplanningcenter.org](http://www.collegeplanningcenter.org)

Military career information:  
[www.myfuture.com](http://www.myfuture.com) or [www.bridges.com/mcows/military.htm](http://www.bridges.com/mcows/military.htm)

Rhode Island Apprenticeship:  
[www.dlt.ri.gov/apprenticeship](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/apprenticeship)

This brochure was originally prepared by America's Career Resource Network (ACRN)  
[www.acrnetwork.org](http://www.acrnetwork.org)



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

DLT is an equal opportunity employer/program, auxiliary aids & services are available on request to individuals with disabilities.

4/07 MDF

High School prepares your child for a number of opportunities

What should my Child do after High School?



Planning for your child's future after high school graduation

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training  
**Labor Market Information Unit**  
1511 Pontiac Ave., Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-8740 phone | (401) 462-8766 fax  
(401) 462-8006 tdd  
[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

## What steps should I take to help my child prepare for life after high school?

### Ways you can help your child include:

- ✓ Identify occupations or career fields in which your child would like to work.
- ✓ Discover the skills needed for that occupation or field.
- ✓ Get as much education and experience related to their career interests as possible while still in high school. This can be accomplished through high school electives, extracurricular activities, volunteering, job shadowing, internships and part-time jobs.
- ✓ Collect information about the post-high school training needed to fit the career plan.
- ✓ Find schools or colleges that provide training for your child's chosen occupation.
- ✓ Look beyond just starting a training program; set a plan for how to finish the program.

### What if my child does not have a career goal?

Help your child choose a post-high school training program that offers study in a general area that relates to his or her interests.

Encourage your child to take challenging courses and to continue to think about how he or she may want to use education to pursue a rewarding career.

Remember, it is okay for your child to change career goals as he or she learns more about the world of work.



Also, keep in mind that it is better to have a plan that is modified as your child changes goals than to have no plan at all.

## What are my child's options for post-high school training?

There are many paths your child can take to get further education and training after high school, depending on his or her career goals. Here are some examples:



**On-the-Job Training** - Some occupations require completion of a formal, on-the-job training program. For example, if your child would like to work as a flight attendant, bank teller or emergency dispatcher, he or she must complete a formal training program provided by the employer.

**Apprenticeship Training** - Other occupations require apprenticeships, which entail working with experienced workers and completing some classroom training for 1-5 years, depending on the occupation. An apprentice earns wages, but they are less than he or she will make once the training is completed. Examples of occupations which require apprenticeship training include carpenter, welder, electrician, and dental lab technician.

**Military Training** - The military trains people in 140 occupations. Every recruit signs a legal contract for eight years of duty. Usually two to six are spent on active duty; the remaining two are spent in the reserve forces. Many military occupations involve skills that can be useful in civilian jobs. Service members receive basic pay, allowances and benefits. Tuition assistance at colleges and universities is also available.

---

*60% of college freshmen will change their major at least once and another 20% will change their major more than once before graduating from college.*

---

**Certificate Programs** - Many programs at community colleges, technical schools and private career schools offer six-month to one-year programs that provide certificates of completion to show your child is qualified to do specific work. Occupations that might require certificate training include pharmacy technician, dental assistant, paralegal, computer equipment repairer and medical assistant.

**Associate Degree Programs** - Community colleges offer many two-year degree programs. Your child can either get a transfer degree, which will count as the first two years of a four-year degree and will transfer to a four-year college, or your child can get a two-year degree in a specific career field. Occupations that may require an associate's degree include nurse, office manager, respiratory therapist, forestry technician and interior designer.

**Bachelor Degree Programs** - State and private colleges and universities offer four-year degree programs. Your child may want to go directly to a four-year institution. If so, it is important to have a plan for what he or she wants to study in order to increase the chances that this degree will be completed successfully. A bachelor's degree can prepare your child for an array of occupations including dietitian, graphic designer, accountant, social worker, and technical writer.

**Education beyond a Bachelor's Degree** - Many occupations require education beyond a bachelor's degree. Occupations that require five years of higher education or more include architect, lawyer, and doctor. With a plan for post-high school education, you and your child will be better prepared for the time and money that will be required for your child to reach his or her career goal.