

Partnering with your Student for Success using Family Connection

What is Family Connection?

Your student's school has partnered with Naviance to provide a variety of tools for student achievement through academic planning. These tools are located in Family Connection, a website for students and families to access online resources, communicate with school staff and collaborate on college and career readiness activities.

What can your student do in Family Connection?

Students can research colleges, scholarships, careers, enrichment programs and courses in one location. They can also create individual plans that can be linked to college and career readiness. Students can communicate easily with teachers and counselors. For college and career readiness, students can request transcripts and recommendations for college applications as well as complete career assessments and perform college and career searches. Students can also create goals and track associated tasks and activities.

Because Success is a Group Effort

Our partnership with Naviance offers access to several planning tools that connect goals with future outcomes. Family Connection takes an age and grade approach to goal setting and planning, so that students can personalize their action plans. As a parent or guardian, what role do you play in helping your student succeed?

- You can encourage goal setting as a recipe for success
- You can monitor activities to identify early intervention opportunities
- You can coach and guide to make informed decisions

More information on how you can partner with your student for success is provided on the back!

There are a number of features in Family Connection that you can use to engage with your student. Most of the actions involve viewing and reviewing activities that your student completes; however, there are various actions you can take. An overview of the features available to parents and guardians in Family Connection is provided below.



Home page

- View updates and links from the school
- Read and send e-mail messages to school staff



Courses tab

- View student course records
- Comment on student's course plan
- Approve student's course plan



Colleges tab

- Monitor student progress during the college application process
- Add colleges to the Colleges I'm Thinking About list for your student
- Research colleges, enrichment programs and scholarships



Careers tab

- Review the results of student's assessments
- Research careers and pathways



About Me tab

- Take surveys
- Review student's resume
- View student's test scores



My Planner tab

- Comment on student's goals
- Comment on student's tasks

Note: The above features may or may not be available to you depending on how your student's school set up the Family Connection site.

Academic Readiness

Course plans ensure your student is on track in school. Course plans can be created based on graduation requirements or other pathways the student may be interested in.

What you can do to help?

Review the courses your student plans to take for the next four years. Based on the plan he or she created, is your student meeting the school's graduation requirements?

Have your student's interests changed? If so, do these changes impact the student's course plan? Comment on your student's course plan as you notice interests changing that impact the course plan.

Discuss the impact of not considering requirements for certain postsecondary goals with your student. Will your student meet the requirements of his or her postsecondary plan?

College Readiness

Your student can explore a variety of options to pursue after graduation. He or she can use information from career assessments and course plans to help with college research.

What can you do to help?

Recommend colleges to your student by adding a college to the **Colleges I'm Thinking About** list.

Encourage your child to attend college fairs and visit college campuses to learn more about colleges he or she may be interested in applying to.

Use the scholarship list and scholarship search to research scholarships for your student.

For each college your student is applying to, you can see the status of your student's transcript request and the application status. You can also view the current status of all teacher recommendation requests. (**Colleges I'm Applying To** page)

Career Readiness

Your student can complete multiple career assessments to help him or her learn more about his or her personality type, interest areas and possible careers after high school.

What can you do to help?

Research career options for your student. Is there a specific career or pathway that he or she is interested in?

As your student identifies the careers that interest him or her, think about the path he or she might take after high school. Discuss with your student what options he or she is interested in. Is a four-year college or a career education program the best fit?

Partner with your student to link colleges to careers using the College Planning tools in Family Connection.

Review assessment results to understand your student's learning style and personality profile.

Setting Goals

Your student can develop as many goals as he or she would like. These goals can be academic, social or personal accomplishments. Goals are a great way for your student to focus on key actions that lead to success.

What can you do to help?

Encourage your child to work on setting realistic goals for him or herself. An example goal would be to *earn a higher grade in a specific class this year*. What are the things that he or she would need to do in order to accomplish this goal?

Provide encouragement. You can comment on your student's goals and tasks.

Discuss tasks your student can complete in order to achieve his or her goals. If you notice your student is not on track to complete these tasks, you can add a comment with your feedback.

The Resume Builder

Your student can build his or her resume in Family Connection. He or she should review and revise the resume from year-to-year as accomplishments, interests and activities change. As you work with your student, consider the following:

1. Find out what activities he or she enjoys most. Are there ways to involve your student in the activities either in school or in the community?
2. Determine if your student is focused on a lot of activities or a few activities. Helping your student focus on a few key activities he or she enjoys can help in creating a well-balanced resume with academic and extracurricular activities.
3. Help your student decide what activities or interest he or she wants to continue in college. This can help identify scholarships and other programs that may support that goal.

Communicating with School Staff

You can communicate with school staff members using the messaging tool within Family Connection. School staff members may provide surveys or bulletins with information for you to review. These tools help you stay informed and connected with your student's school and allow you to collaborate with key stakeholders regarding your student's activities.