



PARENT GUIDE

Alaska Career Information System

Important Dates For High School Seniors:

Jan 1 (or soon after)

Go to fafsa.gov to complete the FAFSA annually.

Feb 15

Scholarship applications are due at UAA, UAF, UAS, APU, and the UA Foundation.

Submit a FAFSA for priority financial aid at many schools.

June 30

Submit a FAFSA by June 30 for the state grant and/or scholarship (APS* & AEG*)

Help for Parents:

AKCIS.org explains commonly used terms and concepts

- Choosing a School
- Paying for School
- Job Search

Attend College Goal Alaska events and Financial Aid Nights in your community (collegegoalak.org)

Tools for Counselors, Teachers, and Users

Resources in AKCIS improve your experience including:

- national & Alaska curricula
- implementation
- user guides
- tutorials and more

AKCIS.ORG

AKCIS Helpline:

800-441-2962

(option #3)

or in Juneau 465-2962

akcis@alaska.gov

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

AKCIS.org provides PLCP* resources to help parents stay involved

Connect with your child about important **decisions** for education and career choices

Model a **positive attitude** about school, work, education, and career goals

Engage in **education and career exploration** to prepare your child to be successful in the workforce

Nurture dreams and **self-confidence**

Help identify your student's **interests, abilities, and lifestyle goals** and pay attention to how these evolve during high school

Encourage discussions about **career plans and education**

Register or request training at AKCIS.org



Get started as early as 4th grade with AKCIS Jr.

*Acronyms To Know

AKCIS: Alaska Career Information System → *plan for your future*

PLCP: Personal Learning & Career Plan → *create your Portfolio*

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid → *gain access to grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school*

TERC: Testing & Education Resource Center → *find test prep materials*

APS: Alaska Performance Scholarship → *money for college or training*

AEG: Alaska Education Grant → *need-based financial assistance*

Parent Guide for Education & Career Planning

AKCIS.org is an online tool to help build your student's Personal Learning & Career Plan (PLCP):



START HERE

Student:

- Create a Student Portfolio through the school's site account, in AKCIS.org**

Parent:

- Register a Parent Account to review your student's progress, reflections, & choices.**

1) GETTING STARTED (TYPICALLY 7TH - 9TH GRADE)

- Complete Assessments: Discover how interests, skills, & values match occupations.
- Record education, employment, skills, achievements, & test scores for easy retrieval with the Resume Creator.
- Explore Career Clusters, Occupations, & Industries with your learner: Access helpful occupational information.
- Examine Programs of Study: Explore the many options available.
- Compare school & training program offerings: Learn about costs, demographics, & more.
- Set Goals: Personal, academic, & career. Update Goals in AKCIS annually.

2) DIGGING DEEPER (TYPICALLY 10TH - 11TH GRADE)

- Evaluate postsecondary education & training options available in AK and outside.
- Financial Aid Sort: Create a list of local, state, & national scholarships & grants.
- Track scholarship & school requirements, meetings, campus tours, & career fairs with the Application Tracker.
- Visit APS.alaska.gov for APS information Checklist: Does your student meet the GPA, testing, & curriculum requirements?
- Consider attending Financial Aid Events: Sessions are delivered locally & by webinar.

3) NEXT STEPS (TYPICALLY 12TH GRADE)

- Plan secondary & postsecondary course work to meet goals using the Course Planner.
- Gather parent & student financial documents to complete the FAFSA at FAFSA.ed.gov.
- Access parent/student checklists by grade level & college entrance exam prep sites by visiting TERC - <http://bit.ly/1CWOG7P>.
- Take Placement Tests - ACT, SAT, WorkKeys: Use the Application Tracker to record dates & results.
- Request Letters of Recommendation: Scan & save these letters in Saved Files & Links at AKCIS.org.
- Attend College Goal Alaska and Financial Aid Events: Sessions are delivered locally & by webinar.^ ^
- Review Award Letters: Remember to "accept" the aid! Update results in the Application Tracker.
- Hone interview skills with the Job Search section: Get ready for school, scholarship, & career interviews.



** Site administrative tools are provided for counselors/advisors to assist students with college & career planning. Contact your school or the AKCIS Helpline for more information.

** Counselors/advisors create Parent Accounts. Contact your student's school or the AKCIS Helpline for more information.

^^ Register at CollegeGoalAK.org, contact your school's counselor, or visit ACPE.alaska.gov for more information.

Provided to all Alaskans through a partnership between:



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT