

# KIDS **2** CAREERS



## FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING GRADE LEVEL SUCCESS STEPS:

### August

- Review [Alaska Performance Scholarship \(APS\) requirements](#).
- Consider taking 2-4 years of world language; seek out tutoring/help from a teacher as needed
- If college doesn't feel right, investigate career & technical education, certifications, and apprenticeships (often offered quarterly) — everything has a deadline
- Record all extracurricular and leadership activities and contact information for potential references
- Talk with your family about starting or adding to an [Alaska 529 \(alaska529plan.com\)](#) education savings account (used for [qualified educational and apprenticeship expenses](#))

### September

- Consider taking the PSAT in October of 9th and 10th grade at your local HS or local testing center (preparation for [PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(NMSQT\)](#) Junior year and SAT practice
- Think about what is important to you when it comes to education after high school
- Use [AKCIS \(akcis.org\)](#) self-surveys to explore careers and training options based on your interests

### October

- Discuss postsecondary options with school counselor, family, or mentor and determine what is the right education & career training option for you
- Talk with a school counselor and family about enrichment programs such as RAHI, ANSEP, Alaska Geographic Teen Expeditions, Alaska Business Week, University of Alaska Arts and Engineering camps
- Talk with a school counselor about [youth apprenticeship and technical training programs](#)
- Attend local college & career fair and financial aid presentations to learn more

### November

- Talk with a school counselor and family about the following high school options: Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Credit, Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and tutoring programs
- Begin seeking employment or pursuing extracurricular activities of interest; strive for leadership roles



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Continued:

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Dec. ....

- Keep your grades up; Seek out tutoring if needed
- Look for volunteer and community service opportunities
- Continue researching college & career training options; Discuss options with trusted adults

January .....

- Meet with your school counselor and ensure you are on track for Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and graduation
- If you are working, [file taxes](#) (yours and your parent's) and save copies in a safe place to access them when you fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#); Taxes filed Junior Year will be used to complete the FAFSA during your 1st year after high school

Feb. ....

- Begin building positive relationships that can develop into sources for Letters of Recommendation: teachers, principals, school counselors, and extracurricular activity leaders.

March .....

- Seek out summer opportunities that will boost your career and leadership skills
- Research and apply for scholarships available for Freshmen

April .....

- Talk with a school counselor and family about the following high school options: Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Credit, Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and tutoring programs
- Begin seeking employment or pursuing extracurricular activities of interest; strive for leadership roles

May .....

- Study hard for final exams
- Sign up for opportunities that will help you explore interests, gain skills, and enhance leadership skills