
HELP YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TEEN ACQUIRE SKILLS

Thirty years ago, a college degree was a sure thing -- a guaranteed ticket to success. But in today's job market, young people need skills. Teens who have mastered the basic skills are able to learn anything. And in the 21st century, the best-paid workers will be those who are capable of ongoing, lifelong learning. To ensure that teens will be lifelong learners, they must master key skills during high school. How? Through hard work and discipline -- and with your ongoing encouragement and support.

Sound overwhelming? Let these simple suggestions be your guide:

- 1) Express high, but realistic expectations.
- 2) Make sure your teen attends school regularly.
- 3) Encourage your teen to take challenging courses.
- 4) Make sure your teen completes all homework assignments before pursuing other activities.
- 5) Help your teen with class scheduling.
- 6) Encourage a well-rounded education, including academic and professional/technical courses.
- 7) Monitor out-of-school activities, especially teen jobs.
- 8) Encourage volunteerism, job-shadowing and relevant internships during high school.
- 9) Obtain an accurate evaluation of your teen's skills through an ACUPLACER test given at your local community college or technical college.