



Download the 11th Grade
Checklist

Next Steps Idaho

11th Grade: Kicking
into High Gear

Has Answers For High School Juniors

Your junior year is where momentum really starts to build. Check in with your counselor and make sure you're taking the right classes to get you where you want to go. You'll be looking more closely at colleges, training programs, and jobs and getting serious about your post-graduation options. There's a lot to do this year but remember—the future looks bright.

Tackle your junior year!

Thank You!

*Questions based on real experiences and insights
shared by Idaho College & Career Professionals*

Personas

All personas used in this presentation are entirely fabricated. Names are pseudo-random, chosen only for the alphabetical relevance of their first letter. Any resemblance to specific, real life students is coincidental.

The Format

Next Steps Idaho | Continue Your Education

A Helpful Resource

You are about to see how the Next Steps Idaho website can be used by Idaho high school students who share **specific** concerns and/or questions with today's featured personas.

The Idaho Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE) Outreach Team will wrap-up each segment with a few general takeaways. If you know of additional resources that could answer the question or better serve students, you are encouraged to add those to the Chat at that time.

Felicia



Persona: Proactive, A Little Impatient
#####

Felicia

Persona: Proactive, A Little Impatient
#####

Question

Can I start applying for scholarships now? Can I start with applications yet?

Felicia

Persona: Proactive, A Little Impatient
#####

Links

[How to Find Scholarships](#)

[Idaho Scholarship Listing](#)

[Finance Your Education](#)

[IDeal 529 Savings Plan](#)

[What is Financial Aid?](#)

[Brag Sheet \(Activity\)](#)

[Scholarship Tracker \(Activity\)](#)

[Grade 11](#)

Felicia

Persona: Proactive, A Little Impatient
#####

Takeaway

When students start early (and keep track of grades, scholarship applications, the schools that they are most interested in, et al), they are better prepared to narrow their focus when the time comes to make those big decisions. Reassure these go-getters that receiving several small scholarships can be as beneficial as being awarded one or two big ones. It is common that students are offered scholarships or financial aid awards at multiple institutions. Make a point of explaining that these offers cannot be combined. Choosing one institution or program (and accepting the scholarship or aid offered thereby) means every other institutional offer becomes void. The more work juniors can do THIS year, to outline their plan of attack for senior year, the more time they will have to enjoy senior activities. When your ducks are in a row, everything becomes easier and less stressful. Remind every junior you know that plans can change from the time they start looking, to the time they need to decide their next steps after high school. That is life.

George



Persona: Wary of Entrance Exams
~~~~~

# George

*Persona: Wary of Entrance Exams*

~~~~~

Question

Why do I have to take the SAT?

George

Persona: Wary of Entrance Exams

~~~~~

## Links

[High School Graduation Reqs](#)

[Look Ahead to Grade 12](#)

[College Entrance Exams](#)

[Kahn Academy + College Board \(Activity\)](#)

[Schedule/Take the ACT/SAT \(Activity\)](#)

[College Test Prep](#)

# George

*Persona: Wary of Entrance Exams*

~~~~~

Takeaway

All juniors, and especially those who are wary of entrance exams, need to narrow down the list of institutions or programs that they are interested in. Since the pandemic, many schools have moved away from using standard entrance exams as admissions criteria. Even before COVID-19 this discussion was taking place and the practice was being scrutinized. So, the best first move is to check whether or not an entrance exam is required for the institution(s) the student is considering. Make sure this student is signed up to participate in the spring SAT day and emphasize the fact that both the SAT and the ACT can be retaken as many times as desired. Colleges and universities always take the highest score. When registering for each test, students must list all of the colleges and universities that they are even remotely interested in attending (including fallback schools) so that the scores will be automatically forwarded to those institutions. It is not unusual for colleges or financial aid offices to reach out with financial aid offers based on those scores, before a student ever applies there.

Helen

Persona: Starting to Evaluate



Helen

Persona: Starting to Evaluate



Question

How many college credits do I have?

Helen

Persona: Starting to Evaluate



Links

[Advanced Opportunities](#)

[CTE Programs](#)

[Idaho Colleges Directory](#)

[GPA Calculator](#)

[Advanced Opportunities \(Coordinators\)](#)

[Overload & Dual Credit \(Activity\)](#)

[Electives that Interest You \(Activity\)](#)

[Spring SAT Day/Updates](#)

Helen

Persona: Starting to Evaluate



Takeaway

Dual credit and “which course is best for college prep” questions are often too open-ended to be easily answered. They may grow frustrated when the process seems overly complicated, or when their counselor tells them that yes, they have enough college credits for this institution... but at this other college the same credits will just be counted as electives. It is not unheard of for dual credit courses to out of sequence from the classes that a college requires. In which case, a student may have to take a pre-req before they can register for that higher level class. So, the most important takeaway for students who are just starting to evaluate their options is to ask them to make a short list of the programs and institutions that appeal to them. It is also never too early for them to reach out to these institutions and start working with an advisor there. Make sure these students understand the process for obtaining or forwarding their dual credit transcripts after graduation.

Irena

Persona: Uncertain
+++++



Irena

Persona: Uncertain
+++++

Question

How do I know if a school is right for me?

Irena

Persona: Uncertain

+++++

Links

[Quizzes & Planning Tools](#)

[Understanding College Costs](#)

[Find the College for You](#)

[College Cost Estimator \(Activity\)](#)

[Take 5 \(Activity\)](#)

[It's A Money Thing \(Video Series\)](#)

Irena

Persona: Uncertain

+++++

Takeaway

Encourage these students to take as many interest, work values, and aptitude quizzes as possible. If it is viable, encourage these students to visit the campus of the colleges they are interested in. Not EVERY campus; but if they are deciding between two institutions and need more insight, touring the classrooms, common areas, and town around that college can help inform their decision. Make the FAFSA a priority. It is necessary for almost every kind of financial aid and submitting it will help answer questions about the types of resources that the student qualifies for. Junior year is also a critical time to get students talking to their own families about the estimated family contribution (EFC). If students are planning to work 40/hrs a week to pay the bills, talk them through the feasibility of that scenario. Above all remind them that plans and interests can change. Remind them to keep their options open and always have that B, C, D institution or plan.

Code Red Question

Problem: Perceived Excess of Time

n.

1. A condition of heightened alertness or preparedness, especially to guard against imminent danger.
2. A warning of or signal indicating imminent danger.

Code Red Question

Problem: Perceived Excess of Time

Question

It's too early to think about this, why are you making me?

Thank You!

Every Wednesday in February at 10:00 AM (MST)

Grades 8-11

Every Wednesday in February at 10:00 AM (MST) the OSBE Outreach Team will hold a 30-minute webinar featuring invented personas and the most frequently asked questions that college and career counselors are asked by each grade; 8th through 12th.

See the Next Steps Idaho calendar for details.

