

How families can help prepare for life after high school at any age

	Kids are wondering...	Say	Do
Elementary School	What's out there? Who do I want to be?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who do you want to be when you grow up? What part of that job seems interesting? What do you think you need to know or learn to do that job? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start saving: Open an Alaska 529 account and invest part of your PFD. Other people can gift to your kid(s). Make connections between school & the real world.
Middle School	Who am I? Where am I from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share personal & family history: This is where you're from (community, ancestors, culture, etc.) Hold up a mirror: I see that you enjoyed... are skilled at... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunistically encourage exposure to college & career options (in person, online with AKCIS & Kids2Careers). Provide choice <u>and</u> structure; allow for learning from mistakes.
Start of High School	What do I like (and not like)? Where do I want to go?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where do you think you want to live when you're older? What might you want to do? Here are some options (activities, jobs, etc.); what do you want to try out? What classes do you need to take in HS to access scholarships, certificates, etc? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk with your school & student about the courses needed for Alaska Performance Scholarship eligibility, Alaska Education Grant, and the criteria for choosing University of Alaska Scholars. Download checklists & planning tools. Sophomores: Take the PSAT (optional).
End of High School	How do I get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can I help you make a plan for next year? What (schools, programs, jobs) do you want to apply for? Prioritize & stay on track: What do you need to get done this month? Build a support network: Who can you reach out to for help now (and next year)? I believe in you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juniors: Compare options and take SATs (optional, helpful for some schools & scholarships). Seniors: Students & families submit your FAFSA. Apply for college, apprenticeships, the military, and/or employment. Compare your options and track your deadlines. Acknowledge that transition & change can be hard for parents & kids. Let them know you will still be there for them in a different way.