

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.