

Most colleges and universities expect students to take *at least* these classes during high school:

- ✓ 4 years of English
- ✓ 3 to 4 years of math, including Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry
- ✓ 3 years of science, including life science and physical science
- ✓ 3 years of social studies, including U.S. history and world civilization
- ✓ 2 years of foreign language



High school students can take additional classes in each of these subjects. They can also take electives in subjects like music, art and physical education.

Tests for College

- GEAR UP Kentucky makes tests available to participating schools that help students find out if they're ready for high school and college work. Middle school students take ACT's EXPLORE test, and high school students take ACT's PLAN test. Look for reports that come home with scores and suggestions about how students can improve their knowledge and skills.
- To apply to college, a high school student must take the ACT or the SAT in 11th or 12th grade.
- Your child's teachers or school counselor can tell your child how to sign up, and when and where to take these tests.
- Students can take practice tests to get ready for the tests that "count."
- Ask how your child can get ready for all these tests.
- Ask about getting financial help for the tests.

**#1
Get Ready
for
High School!**



**Thinking Ahead
About High School**

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- ❖ Middle school students are “in between.”
- ❖ They’re not babies anymore, but they’re not young adults yet either.
- ❖ It’s exciting for them to be more on their own, but it’s also a little scary for them—and for their parents, too!
- ❖ As middle schoolers look ahead to high school, they have many questions—and so do you.

Students who work hard in middle school do better in high school.

- *Talk to your child about school work, including homework, every day.*
- *Help your 8th grader decide what classes to take in high school.*

Learn about high school:

- Use a computer to see if there’s a web site for the high school your child will attend.
- If the high school has an open house for 8th graders, go with your child. Write down your questions and your child’s questions before you go.
- Tell your child’s teachers and counselors you want your child to take classes for students who are planning to go to college, starting in 9th grade.

High school is exciting and scary for everyone.

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Your child will have to work hard in high school, but there will be time for friends and fun, too.

- Kentucky students must take certain classes to graduate from high school, and to go to Kentucky colleges and universities.
- To find out what classes your child should take, talk to teachers, or a school counselor or principal.
- You can also call the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education: (502) 573-1555, or online at cpe@ky.gov.

A student who plans to go to college should take the hardest classes possible.

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In high school, your child should take some “Honors” or Advanced Placement (“AP”) classes.

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Ask your 8th grader’s teachers to help your child sign up for high school classes for students planning to go to college.