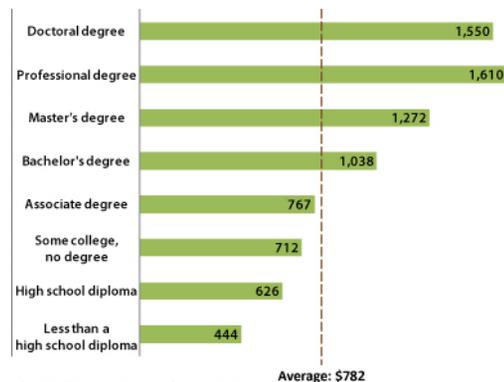


Why should my child go to college?

A college degree is an important asset in improving life for young people. The number of jobs requiring a college degree is growing almost twice as fast as the number of jobs that do not require a college degree. Also, pay rates for people who go to college are increasing much faster than those for workers with only a high school diploma. The bottom line is that your child will have more choices in life if s/he goes to college.

Education pays in higher earnings.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey
Median weekly earnings in 2010 (\$)



How can I help my child prepare academically for college?

A college education builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier years. You can prepare your child

now by creating a quiet space for your child to do homework and encouraging independent work. Read to your young child often and encourage older children to read books daily for fun.

As your child enters middle school, a variety of pre-Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be available. Students who take the most academically rigorous courses are often better prepared for the academic challenges presented in college.

High School can also be a time for your student to begin career exploration which may include taking dual credit classes or tech prep classes that will prepare them for college or careers. Talk to your child's school counselor for more information about these courses.

I've heard that college is very expensive. How can my family pay for a college education?

Money should never keep anyone from going to college. More than \$60 billion in financial aid is awarded to students every year. Financial aid comes in the following forms:

- **Grants** do not have to be paid back.
- **Work-study programs** allow students to earn money working at part-time jobs while they go to college.
- **Merit-based aid or scholarships** are awarded to students with special talents or skills.

- **Loans** do have to be paid back, usually after the student leaves school.
- **Tax credits** allow families to reduce their tax bill by the amount of out-of-pocket college tuition they spend.

It's never too early to consult with a financial planner to discuss saving for your child's post-secondary education. One way to find a financial planner is to ask a trusted friend, family member, accountant, or lawyer for a recommendation.

How can I help increase my child's self-esteem and career awareness?

- **Discuss the many different occupations that exist.** Use concrete examples and explain what tasks each job entails.
- **Show respect for everyone, regardless of occupation, so that your child understands that all occupations and people have dignity and value.**
- **Talk about the work people do when out and about in the community.** Discuss the differences between job tasks.
- **Play games with your child by acting out different occupations.**
- **Read books and stories about people at work.**
- **Let your child know that things she/he likes to do can be translated into occupations with the same type of tasks.**
- **Assign your child age-appropriate chores in order to teach responsibility.**



***Where can I find out more
about financial aid for
college?***

Helpful resources include financial aid publications in the reference section of your local public library and state & Federal agencies, such as:

**Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board**

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/>

(512) 427-6101 (Austin Metro Area)

U. S. Department of Education

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>

1 (800) 433-3243

TTY: 1 (800) 730-8913

Or, talk with your child's school counselor.



**Department of Learning
Support Services**



Austin Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, or English language skills in its programs and activities.

***Jump Start
To College
And Careers***

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***A RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR PARENTS OF
ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS***



**Austin Independent
School District**