

College Board Follow-Up: *Key Areas of Focus and a Spotlight on Tools & Resources*

Elevating Parental Engagement to Parental Advocacy

In order to see real breakthrough in bridging the gap, it is necessary for parents to be engaged and assertive with the school system, especially for traditionally underserved groups such as 1st generation, Latinos, African American and Native American students. Given some families' lack of experience and knowledge about where to go for support, one of the College Board's goals is to build confidence within parents to more actively engage in their child's education. However, while our messages often focus on ensuring that their child receives quality education, they sometimes fall short of encouraging a more active participation in their schools and communities to advocate on behalf *all* students. This is where collaboration with schools, districts and college access organizations are essential.

Underscored below are a few resources with embedded website links and tools to help bridge the divide:

❖ Academic Readiness

- [Create a Solid Academic Portfolio - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/554KB\)](#)
- [Get College Ready Now](#) - See how working hard in challenging classes in high school can actually save you time and money in college. [Read article](#)
- [How to Take Your Classes to the Next Level](#) - Taking challenging classes works to your advantage: It prepares you for college-level study and looks good on your college application. [Read article](#)
- [Parent Action Plan: Middle School](#) - Parents: Find out how to help your middle school student develop the right work and study habits to prepare for high school and college. [Go](#)
- [Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade](#) - Parents: Find out how you can help your 9th-grader adjust to high school and begin to think about college. [Go](#)
- [Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade](#) - Parents: Tenth grade is a great time to decide on college “must-haves” and explore career ideas. Find out how to help your child. [Go](#)
- [Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade](#) - Parents: Are you ready to help your 11th-grader search for colleges, get ready for college admission tests and research financial aid? [Go](#)
- [Parent Action Plan: 12th Grade](#) - Parents: From college applications to high school graduation, this is going to be a busy year for you and your 12th-grader. Are you ready? [Go](#)
- [20 Questions to Ask Your School Counselor](#)
- [Questions to Ask Financial Aid Officers](#) - Each college has its own financial aid policy and guidelines. Get the answers you need by asking the financial aid officer these questions. [Read article](#)
- [Campus Visits: Before You Go](#) - A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. [Read article](#)
- [Building a Support Network](#)
- [The Scoop: What's a Mentor and How Do I Get One?](#) - A mentor can help you make decisions about your future. But where do you find one? College students and experts offer advice and share their stories. [Read article](#)
- **HOW TO FIND AN INTERNSHIP YOU'LL VALUE** - What's the benefit of an internship — and how do you get one? Get advice and read what students say they got out of their internships. [Read article](#)

The Path to Completing a 4-Year Degree

Today there are record numbers of Latinos enrolling in higher education – however many of those interested in pursuing a 4-year college degree are making choices that are not conducive to reaching their goal.

❖ Student Resources:

- [Working with Your High School Counselor for College Success](#)
- [Big Future](#)
- [YouCanGo!](#)
- **COLLEGE SEARCH STEP-BY-STEP** - This interactive tool walks students through steps they can take to find colleges that are right for them. Each step features relevant information, tips and videos. [Go](#)
- [Finding Your College Fit](#)
- [Apply to 4 or More](#)
- [Pay for College](#)
- [Financial Aid 101](#) and [Grants & Scholarships](#)
 - [How to Complete the FAFSA](#) - To apply for federal financial aid, you have to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Find out how to complete the form. [Read article](#)
 - [3 Steps to Getting Financial Aid](#) - There are three main sources of financial aid and three simple steps you need to take to be eligible. Find out what they are. [Read article](#)
 - [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#) - Did you know that you may be eligible for financial aid? And even if you think you aren't, it's smart to apply for it. Get the facts about financial aid. [Start slide show](#)
 - [Understanding College Costs](#) - Think college is too expensive? Get the facts on college costs and learn why you may not have to pay a college's "sticker price." [Read article](#)
 - FOCUS ON NET PRICE, NOT STICKER PRICE - Did you know that students usually pay less than a college's published price? Find out why. [Read article](#)
 - [Net Price Calculator](#)
 - [CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE[®]](#)
- [CollegeGo](#) mobile app (beta)

❖ Family Resources:

- [Help Your Child Make College a Reality: A Family Guide to College Planning \(Spanish\)](#) - This Spanish-language guide encourages family involvement in the college planning process. [View and download flip book](#)
- [BigFuture Brochure for Parents and Families - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/253KB\)](#)
- [College Planning Calendar for Juniors - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/570KB\)](#)
- [College Planning for Ninth and 10th Graders Download in Spanish \(.pdf/565KB\)](#)
- [College Planning Calendar for Seniors - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/586KB\)](#)
- [College Application Checklist - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/545KB\)](#)
- [Financial Aid Checklist for Students and Parents - Download in Spanish \(.pdf/586KB\)](#)

❖ Social Media channels

[Big Future](#) (Facebook page)

[Big Future by the College Board](#) (YouTube channel)

[YouCanGo!](#) (YouTube channel)

[Connect to College](#) (Facebook page)

[@MyBigFuture](#) (Twitter handle)

[Khan Academy + SAT](#)

Tools & Resources Access Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, Educators

- [CollegeEd® College Planning Program](#)
 - [What Is CollegeEd?](#) - CollegeEd is a free, standards-based college planning and career exploration program for middle and high school students. [Learn more](#)
 - [How to Use CollegeEd](#) - The CollegeEd program offers flexible, easy-to-implement lessons in three levels, each with a student workbook and educator guide that can be downloaded for free. [Learn more](#)
 - **FOR TEACHERS** - Visit our Teacher Advocacy section for webinars and resources that support the work of teachers. [Go](#)

[Redesigned SAT](#)

Sample Questions and Test Specifications

- [Overview: Current SAT vs. Redesigned SAT](#)
- [Test Specifications: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: Essay](#)
- [Test Specifications: Math](#)
- [How We Make the Test: the Craft of Developing the SAT](#)
- [Evidentiary Foundation of the Redesigned SAT](#)
- [Download the complete test specifications and supporting materials](#)

[Students and parents](#)

High-level blueprint outlining the foundation for the redesign and summarizes key changes ([PDF](#)).

[Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT](#)

- [Overview Comparison: Current and Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT](#)

[Delivering Opportunity](#)

We hope you find this information helpful. Learn more about the redesigned SAT and sign up for updates at [DeliveringOpportunity.org](#).