



Promoting Academic Excellence

- ✓ Get involved by attending school activities, parent/teacher conferences and parent board meetings
- ✓ Communicate often with youth's teacher(s) and counselor
- ✓ Assist youth with identifying academic interests, goals, strengths and areas needing improvement
- ✓ Show interest in your child's academic world by assisting him/her with getting organized, inquiring about his day and designating a distraction-free study area
- ✓ Assist with developing time management skills and prioritizing assignments
- ✓ Review completed assignments and assist with test preparation
- ✓ Encourage daily reading to assist with improving reading and comprehension skills
- ✓ Encourage youth to perform his/her best and congratulate all accomplishments
- ✓ Explain standardized exams, support and encourage youth's best performance
- ✓ During the month of March, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th graders will take the Illinois Standardized Achievement Test (ISAT)
- ✓ Discuss high schools of interest during 5th grade, explain that 7th grade reading and math scores from the ISAT will determine high school eligibility
- ✓ During sophomore year of high school, encourage youth to begin identifying colleges or universities of interest
- ✓ During junior year of high school, encourage youth to attend college tours
- ✓ Ensure that students register to take the ACT during their junior year of high school
- ✓ All high school juniors must take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) or its equivalent during the Spring
- ✓ During the months of October and November, 12th graders should begin sending out applications to college(s) of interest
- ✓ Ensure that seniors complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form in January
- ✓ 12th grade students should apply for DCFS Scholarship January through March
- ✓ 12th grade students should apply for self-identified college scholarships, noting application deadlines
- ✓ Complete all financial aid paperwork at school
- ✓ Attend college orientations once accepted
- ✓ Enroll into the DCFS Youth in College or the Community College Payment Program at least 2 months prior to attending college of choice

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