



**EXPECT MORE ARIZONA®**  
*Ready Kids • Ready Graduates • Ready Workforce*

**Your Student's Academic Success  
Begins with You and High Expectations**

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS**



# Table of Contents

Parents: You and Your Child's Academic Success .....	2
Expect More Arizona's High Expectations Principles .....	3
New Standards Raise the Bar in Arizona Education.....	4
Arizona's Student Preparedness Challenge .....	4
Opening the Door to Opportunities for Your Student .....	6
Basics for Academic Success at Every Age .....	8
High Expectations: Birth to Age 5 .....	9
High Expectations: Grades K-3 .....	10
The Parent and Teacher Partnership.....	11
High Expectations: Grades 4-6 .....	12
High Expectations: Grades 7-9 .....	13
College and Career Planning Starts Early .....	14
High Expectations: Grades 10-12 .....	15
Assisting Your Student with Homework .....	16
High Expectations: Postsecondary.....	17
The Power of Parents .....	18
Other Ways to Expect More and Do More for Education .....	19



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# Parents: You and Your Child's Academic Success

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and most important champion as he or she advances from preschool through postsecondary education. Your continued involvement and encouragement are critical to your student's academic success. In fact, research shows that students with more actively engaged parents are more likely to attend school regularly, have better social skills, earn higher grades, graduate from high school and go on to college or other postsecondary program.

The first step to supporting your student's academic success is to adopt Expect More Arizona's High Expectations Principles and then sign up for ongoing communication at [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org). We are a resource for you at every stage of the education continuum, providing you with valuable tools, information and resources to help you help your student succeed academically.

**50 Percent**

of Arizona students identify their parents as the number one influence on their academic success.\*

\* Source: Expect More Arizona Student Survey, 2009.

# Expect More Arizona's High Expectations Principles

Parental involvement in student academic success can literally help open the door to opportunities for students and increase the options available to them in the future. The first step is to create a high expectations culture in your home. Here's how:

- 1 Make student academic success a family priority. That means school comes before athletics, entertainment and work.
- 2 Set completing college or other postsecondary program as the ultimate academic goal for your student.
- 3 Commit to be actively engaged in your child's education at every stage – from birth through postsecondary.

Part of being an engaged parent is knowing about key academic milestones and what to do at each stage of your child's academic development. Read on for ways to help your child succeed every step of the way. More information and resources for parents and families are available at [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).

# New Standards Raise the Bar in Arizona Education

Arizona recently adopted the nationally benchmarked and internationally informed Common Core State Standards. These new academic standards, which K-12 educators are now implementing, raise the academic bar for our students and are designed to ensure Arizona students are better prepared to compete and succeed in college and career.

As a parent, what's important to understand is that the standards are tougher and there are key concepts for students of all ages to master. Two of the most important benchmarks in student learning, which are aligned with the new standards, are reading and math proficiency.



### Learn More

about Common Core Standards  
at: [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org),  
[ade.az.gov](http://ade.az.gov) OR [azpta.org](http://azpta.org)

## Arizona's Student Preparedness Challenge

Too many of Arizona's students are falling behind their national and international peers in academic performance, high school graduation rates and postsecondary degree attainment. You can make sure it's not your student by understanding the issues and staying engaged. Stay informed and connected by visiting [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).

Here's why they are critical at every age and grade:

✓ **Reading:** Reading proficiency is a key indicator of high school graduation rates. Children who struggle with reading, most often struggle with language arts, math and other subjects. It's a skill that all learning is built upon. Ensuring your student is proficient at reading by third grade and cultivating a lifelong love for reading lays a strong foundation for success at every age.

✓ **Math:** Math is more than crunching numbers. It helps build critical thinking and problem-solving skills in students. From learning to count to multiplying, dividing and completing complex functions, math builds mental muscle in ways that prepare your student to succeed in college and career. Making sure your student is Algebra ready by 8th grade, and encouraging him to take advanced courses, increases your student's ability to succeed in school and post-graduation.

## Currently in Arizona...

**75%** of 3rd graders are below proficient in reading

**71%** of 8th graders are below proficient in math

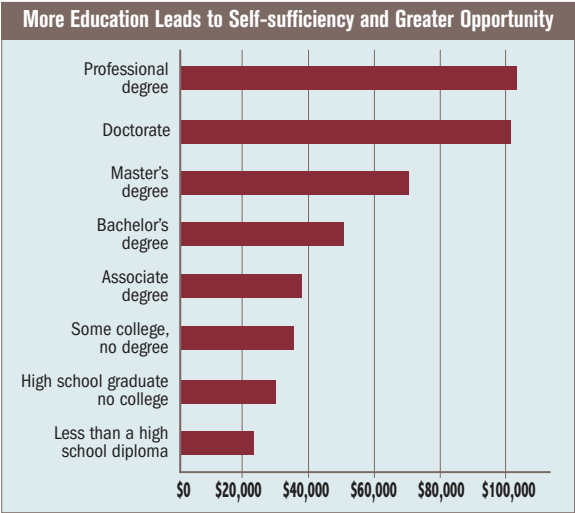
**30%** of high school students don't graduate

**50%** of high school graduates don't qualify to enroll in Arizona's public universities

**30%** of high school graduates require remedial education upon entry to college

# Opening the Door to Opportunities for Your Student

A high quality, challenging education opens the door to opportunities for Arizona's students. It helps increase their lifetime earning potential and better equips them to withstand economic downturns.

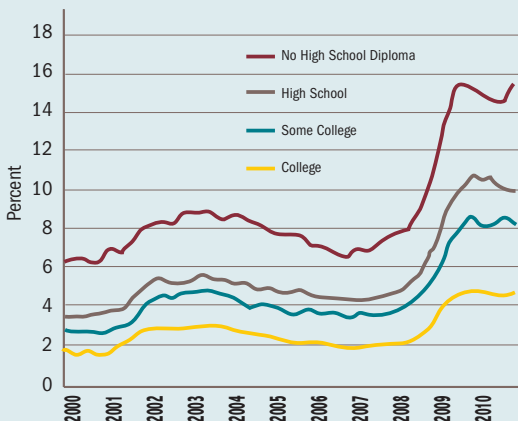


Source: *Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society*, Sandy Baum and Jennifer Ma, Trends in Higher Education Series, 2007, College Board.

In addition, those with a postsecondary education are more likely to work in professions with better benefits including health insurance, paid vacations, sick leave and retirement plans.



## U.S. Unemployment Rates across Education Groups (Ages 25+)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics.

### Did You Know...


Individuals with college degrees not only earn more than those without degrees, they are also far more likely to keep their jobs when times get tough. Even when college graduates are laid off, they tend to find work faster than their non-postsecondary educated peers.

Source: *The Job Market For College Graduates*, New York Times, December, 2008.

# Basics for Academic Success at Every Age

The following steps may seem simple, but their importance is often underestimated by parents and identified as critically important by many teachers and administrators:

- Make student academic success a priority in your home with “school-first” policies. That means school comes before athletics, entertainment and work.
- Get your student to school on-time, well-rested and fed with a healthy breakfast every day.
- Talk to your student about the importance of postsecondary education regardless of grade and help connect how what they are learning today moves him toward his college and career dreams.
- Set aside time and a quiet space for nightly homework. Even if you don’t know how to do it, ask questions and show interest in what your student is learning.
- Attend your student’s parent-teacher conferences to track her academic progress and to understand where you can support her best.
- Be a consistently encouraging and positive voice of support. Talk to your student about what he is learning in school every day.



For more tips, tools and resources, visit [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).

## High Expectations: Birth to Age 5

- 1 Read to your child for at least 15 minutes every day and help her practice holding a book right side up, reading from left to right and turning the pages.
- 2 Make sure your child can count from 1 to 100 by having him count household items such as beans, pasta, pennies, etc.
- 3 Help your child learn shapes, colors and names of objects by pointing to objects and asking her to name and describe them.
- 4 Talk positively to your young child about going to school, including college, and the fun of life-long learning.

Note: Every child develops at his/her own pace. These are recommended milestones to reach by age 5.



## High Expectations: Grades K-3

- 1 Have your student read for at least 30 minutes every day. Encourage her to choose books that she is interested in and ask her questions about what she is reading.
- 2 Talk to your student's teacher and ask if he is on track to be reading at or above grade level by 3rd grade. Ask how you can help improve or advance reading proficiency.
- 3 Ask questions about your student's homework and what happened in school every day. Provide a dedicated place and time for homework.
- 4 Make sure your child can add, subtract, multiply and divide simple numbers and that they have mastered the multiplication tables through 12x12 by the end of 3rd grade.



# The Parent and Teacher Partnership

The academic success of your student is even stronger when parents and teachers work together. Take time to get to know your student's teacher and make parent-teacher conferences a priority. It's the best way to have a good dialogue about how your student is performing and to set goals for improving his performance. Students are tested multiple times every year through high school graduation. Schools don't always share performance data, so ask these key questions:

- 1 When does testing take place throughout the year?
- 2 How did my student perform on the state tests and how did he compare to his peers?
- 3 What areas do we need to work on to help her improve or be more challenged?
- 4 What joint goals can we set between now and the next testing period?
- 5 What resources are available to us through the district or other places if my student has special needs, is gifted, or just needs more support?
- 6 How else do you evaluate my student's skills and knowledge beyond testing?

## High Expectations: Grades 4-6

- 1 Set a “no excuses” high school graduation expectation and start talking to your student about the importance of postsecondary education and different types of careers.
- 2 Make sure your child is reading chapter books and can read aloud and silently as well as understand what she has read.
- 3 Ensure your student understands common units of measurement such as length, capacity and angles.
- 4 Ask your child’s teacher if he is on track to be Algebra ready by the 8th grade.

Consider starting a College 529 plan which allows you to save for your student’s college education with minimal tax liability. Visit [CollegeSavings.org](http://CollegeSavings.org) for more information.

## High Expectations: Grades 7-9

- 1 Make sure your student has an Education and Career Action Plan (eCAP) by the 9th grade and review it each year to make sure he stays on track.
- 2 Encourage your student to enroll in Algebra I by the 8th grade, or 9th grade at the latest.
- 3 Encourage your child to choose books and articles to read that he can write about and discuss with you. Talk with him about them and help him develop his own ideas and knowledge.
- 4 Ensure your student can solve problems involving percentages such as how much tip to add in a restaurant or how much an item is marked down on sale.

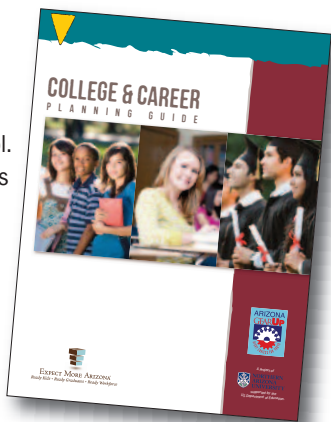
Learn more about the  
eCAP at: [ADE.org](http://ADE.org).



# College and Career Planning Starts Early

## Encourage Your Student to Dream Big and Go For It!

Expect More Arizona, in partnership with Arizona GEAR UP and Northern Arizona University, has created a “College and Career Planning Guide” to help students plan for educational opportunities beyond high school. It outlines specific steps students can take today to ensure they are prepared to graduate from high school and attend a postsecondary program of their choice including a technical program, the military, a community college or university.

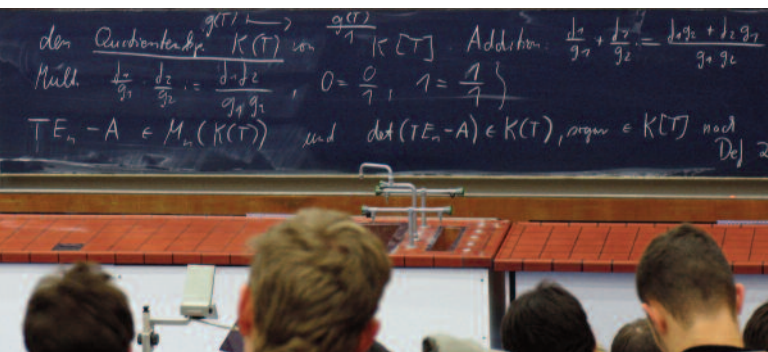


To access the College and Career Planning Guide and other resources online, visit [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).



## High Expectations: Grades 10-12


- 1 Ask your student's counselor about the multiple pathways to postsecondary education available to your student and the entrance requirements. Many students can now take college-bearing credits or certificate programs in high school.
- 2 Have your student take the ACT/SAT in the 11th grade. It's a great way to gauge how prepared she is for college and career.
- 3 Encourage your student to take more rigorous math and science courses throughout high school.
- 4 Don't let your student "coast" through his senior year with only a partial course load. It's proven that a reduced senior year schedule results in a loss of learning and slide on skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education.



## Assisting Your Student with Homework

Parents often become involved in their student's education through homework. Homework can be a powerful tool for letting parents know what the student is learning and giving children and parents a reason to talk about what's going on at school. Even if you don't understand your student's homework, you can still help him stay focused on completing assignments by asking the following questions:

- 1 Tell me about your assignment.
- 2 How did you decide to approach this assignment?
- 3 What are you finding most challenging about this assignment?
- 4 Do you have the tools and resources you need to complete it?
- 5 What skills are you learning through this assignment that will help you be successful in the future?



For more tips, tools and resources, visit [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).

## High Expectations: Postsecondary

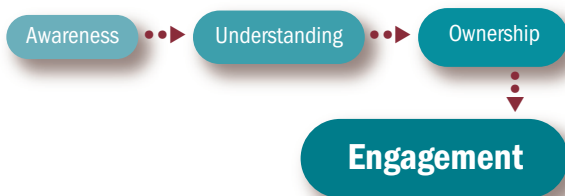
- 1 Talk to your student about career and life aspirations and help him plan his postsecondary path.
- 2 Encourage structured study routines, consistently good grades, and postsecondary completion.
- 3 Check in regularly to track progress and provide ongoing guidance and encouragement.
- 4 Help identify internship and community involvement opportunities to expand skills and post-graduation marketability.
- 5 Encourage your student to take advantage of campus resources to help with academic success.



# The Power of Parents

You've already learned how parents can be a powerful force in the academic success of their students. Parents are also an important voice for education overall. By staying informed and engaged in your student's education, you'll gain a better understanding of what's happening in your school, district and our state. One of Expect More Arizona's goals is to move parents from awareness to action. The same high expectations you set in your home need to be shared by all parents, students, teachers, administrators, community members and elected leaders.

## Expect More Arizona: Moving Arizonans from Awareness to Action



## Other Ways to Expect More and Do More for Education

**Vote** – Make sure you are registered and vote in every election. Make education your “hot button issue” by voting for people, programs and policies that are supportive of education.

**Volunteer** – Give of your time and talents at your local school or education supporting non-profit. Consider getting involved in a parent organization, running for school board or participating on boards, commissions or advisory committees for your local school district.

**Advocate** – Raise your voice for education. Write a letter to your elected representatives, rally your neighbors and engage your social networks to encourage them to make education a priority.

**Invest** – Contribute to a scholarship program, help a teacher in the classroom or give to an education-supporting non-profit.



**VOTE 4  
EDUCATION**

# Inspiring High Expectations and Championing High Quality Education

Expect More Arizona is a movement dedicated to making Arizona education the best in the nation. We are working to create a culture that values education as Arizona's top priority.

We champion high expectations and high quality education for *all* students from birth through career.

For more information and to join the movement, please visit [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org).



POSTAGE  
HERE



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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am a parent/family member with children (check all that apply): ☐ Birth to 5 ☐ Grades K-3 ☐ Grades 4-6

☐ Grades 7-9 ☐ Grades 10-12 ☐ Postsecondary

Sign Up Online at [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org)



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