

FAMILY GUIDE

Postsecondary
Preparedness



Introduction

The Family Guide for Postsecondary Preparedness is designed to empower parents and guardians of high school students within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). This guide aims to provide essential information and resources that will help families support their children in navigating the complex landscape of postsecondary education and career options. By fostering a strong partnership between schools and families, we can enhance academic outcomes and ensure that every student is prepared for success after high school.

Family engagement is a critical component of student success. Research shows that when families are actively involved in their children's education, students are more likely to achieve higher grades, attend school regularly, and graduate on time. Engaged families can provide support, encouragement, and resources that help students navigate their educational journeys. This guide serves as a tool to facilitate meaningful conversations between parents, students, and educators, ultimately strengthening the educational experience for all involved.



Understanding Postsecondary Preparedness



Definition and Importance

Postsecondary preparedness refers to the readiness of students to successfully transition from high school to their next steps, whether that be college, vocational training, or entering the workforce. It encompasses academic skills, social-emotional readiness, and practical knowledge about the options available to them. Being prepared for postsecondary education is crucial, as it can significantly impact a student's future career opportunities and overall quality of life.

Overview of Postsecondary Options

Students have various postsecondary options available to them, including:

College and Universities	Traditional four-year institutions that offer bachelor's degrees in various fields.
Community Colleges	Two-year colleges that provide associate degrees, vocational training, and transfer programs to four-year universities.
Trade Schools	Institutions that focus on specific trades or technical skills, preparing students for immediate employment in fields such as plumbing, electrical work, and culinary arts.
Apprenticeships	Programs that combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, allowing students to earn while they learn in a specific trade.
Military Pathways	This option offers immediate career training, strong education benefits (GI Bill), stable pay and benefits, and opportunities to build discipline, leadership, and transferable skills.

Understanding these options is essential for students and families as they plan for the future.

Key Instructional Priorities in LAUSD

Curriculum Overview

LAUSD is committed to providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares students for postsecondary success. The curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of students and includes a focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world applications. Key subjects include:



English Language Arts

Emphasizing reading comprehension, writing skills, and critical analysis



Mathematics

Fostering quantitative reasoning and problem-solving abilities



Science

Encouraging inquiry-based learning and understanding of scientific principles



Social Studies

Promoting civic engagement and understanding of historical contexts

Intervention Strategies

To support students who may be struggling academically, LAUSD implements various intervention strategies. These may include:



Tutoring Programs

Providing additional academic support in core subjects



After-School Programs

Offering enrichment activities and homework assistance



Personalized Learning Plans

Tailoring educational approaches to meet individual student needs

Enrichment Opportunities

LAUSD also offers a range of enrichment opportunities that enhance the educational experience, including:



Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Allowing students to earn college credit while still in high school.



Dual Enrollment courses

Allowing students to enroll and complete a college course.



Extracurricular Activities

Clubs, sports, and arts programs that promote personal growth and teamwork.



Internships and Job Shadowing

Providing real-world experience in various career fields.

Tools for Family Engagement

Instructional Look-Fors

As parents, knowing what to look for in your child's education can help you engage more effectively. Here are some instructional look-fors:

- **Classroom Environment:** Is the classroom welcoming and conducive to learning?
- **Teaching Methods:** Are teachers using diverse instructional strategies to meet different learning styles?
- **Student Engagement:** Are students actively participating in discussions and activities?

Questions to Ask Your Child

Encouraging open dialogue with your child is vital. Here are some questions to consider:

- What did you learn in school today?
- How do you feel about your classes and teachers?
- What are your goals for the future, and how can I help you achieve them?

Questions to Ask Teachers

Engaging with your child's teachers can provide valuable insights. Consider asking:

- What are the key learning objectives for this semester?
- How can I support my child's learning at home?
- What resources are available for students who may need extra help?



Questions to Ask Counselors

Partnering with your child's counselor helps build a cohesive, supportive relationship that strengthens your child's future opportunities. Consider asking:

- Should my child consider honors, AP, dual enrollment courses?
- What upcoming college fairs, workshops, or info sessions should we know about?
- When should we start the FAFSA or CADAA application?

Strategies for Connecting Classroom Learning to Home

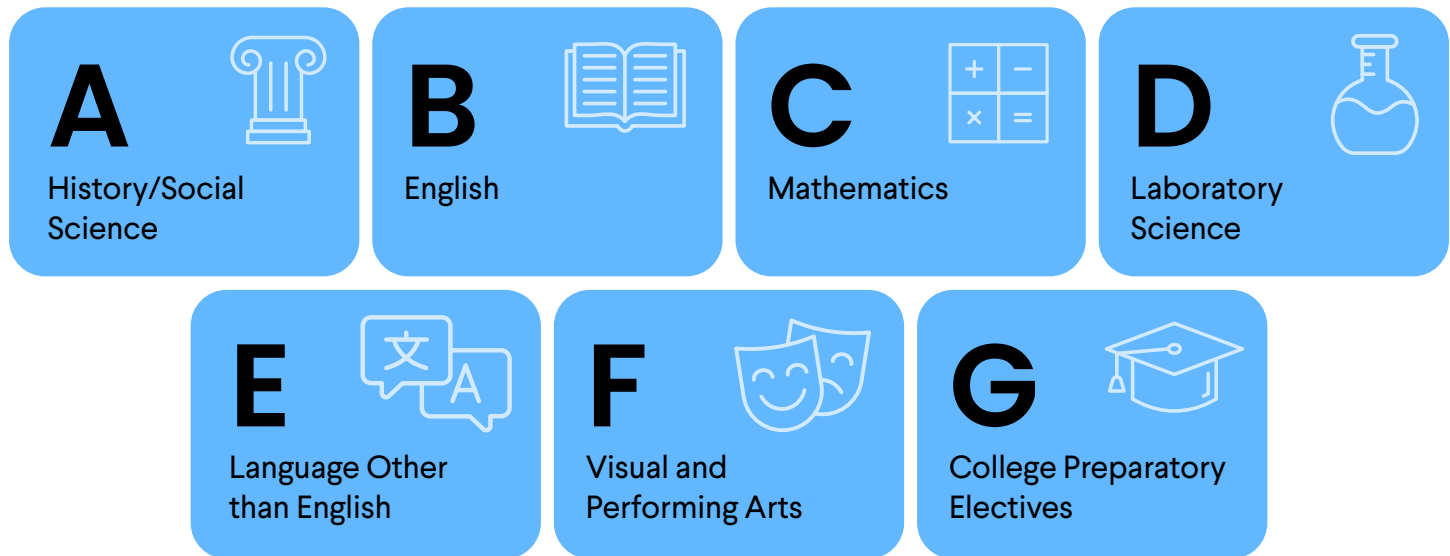
To reinforce learning at home, consider the following strategies:

- **Create a Study Space:** Designate a quiet area for homework and study.
- **Encourage Reading:** Promote reading by providing access to books and discussing them.
- **Discuss Real-World Applications:** Relate classroom concepts to everyday life and future career options.

Resources for College Readiness

The A-G course requirements are a series of high school courses that students must complete to be eligible for admission to California State Universities and University of California schools.

These courses include:



College Counseling Resources

LAUSD provides various college counseling resources to assist students in their postsecondary planning, including:

- College Counseling Offices: Available at each high school to guide students through the college application process.
- Workshops and Seminars: Covering topics such as financial aid, college applications, and scholarship opportunities.
- Online Resources: Access to websites and tools that provide information on colleges and universities.

Additional Support Services

In addition to academic resources, LAUSD offers support services that can help students succeed, such as:

- Mental Health Services: Counseling and support for emotional well-being.
- Career Centers: Resources for job placement and career exploration.
- Parent Workshops: Opportunities for parents to learn about supporting their child's education.

Conclusion

Recap of Key Points

This Family Guide for Postsecondary Preparedness has outlined the importance of family engagement in education, provided an overview of postsecondary options, and highlighted key instructional priorities within LAUSD. Additionally, it has offered practical tools for families to engage meaningfully in their child's learning and resources for college readiness.

Encouragement for Ongoing Engagement

As a parent or guardian, your involvement in your child's education is invaluable. By staying informed, asking questions, and actively participating in your child's learning journey, you can help ensure their success in high school and beyond. Together, we can create a supportive environment that fosters academic achievement and prepares students for a bright future.

This guide is intended to be a living document, and we encourage families to revisit it regularly as they navigate the educational landscape. For further information and resources, please visit the LAUSD website or contact your child's school.



**Thank you for your
commitment to your child's
education and for being an
essential partner in their
success!!!**