

Family Lessons: Educator Guide

Goal: Students and their parents/guardians will learn about the resources available on CaliforniaColleges.edu.

Family lessons provide a holistic approach to the often technical process of college and career exploration and planning. Family lessons provide an opportunity for students to pause, reflect, and explore their networks for support, while also creating space for emotional and social factors that may weigh on students. The lessons are focused on student self-evaluation as it relates to college and career readiness and planning. Students produce material they can use to guide them on the path to independence.

Recommended Preparation

- **Select a Family Lesson.** There are family lessons for students in grades 8th-12th. Select the appropriate lesson for your students. Though each lesson is curated for a specific grade level, you may find them appropriate for broader groups of students.
- **Review the Family Lesson Student Worksheet.** Each lesson focuses on self-reflection and exploration. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.

Getting Started

- You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

Suggested Usage

You may choose to use this activity in a variety of ways or settings:


- In class, then assign a portion to be completed at home.
- As a task for the student to complete before an individual meeting.
- As homework.

Family Lesson: My School's Resources: Student Worksheet

Goal: You and your parents/guardians will learn about the resources available on CaliforniaColleges.edu.

Part I: Platform Exploration

There are many resources available to you and much you can learn from **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. With a parent or guardian, sit down with a computer for an hour and find the items below. Begin by signing in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, then begin your research.

Use the Accessibility Menu (accessed via CTRL+U or the  icon in the bottom corner of your screen) to change the language of the platform and/or to apply accessibility tools.

ACADEMIC

- Find out what the “a-g” courses are. Search for “a-g.” Learn how “a-g” courses differ for CSU and UC.
- Update or review your current class schedule in your Academic Planner.
- Consider classes to take next year by using your Academic Planner.

COLLEGE

- Add attending local college fairs to **My Tasks**.
- Search for “college admission exams.” Learn about the PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject, and ACT.
- Search for “college options in California.” Learn about CCCs, CSU, UC, and private colleges.

CAREER

- Learn about career pathways by searching for “Career Pathways.”
- Add attending career events at your school to **My Tasks**.

FINANCIAL AID

- Go to **Financial Aid** at the top of the page and select “Learn about Financial Aid” to learn about the different kinds of financial aid you can get to pay for college. Find out how financial aid makes college cost less.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Learn about extracurricular activities by searching for “Non-Academic Factors Important to Colleges.”

Part II: Discussion

With your family or guardian, discuss what you have learned. Did you know how to track your academic progress? How can you use your Academic Planner? What college or career resources are you ready to take advantage of? Are there any personal difficulties you have had that a counselor could help you with? Do you know where the counselors' office is on your campus?

What other information would help your parent or guardian feel connected to your school, and comfortable asking for support from the school?

Part III: Action

Make sure your parent/guardian knows how to register their account! Start [here](#) and scroll down until you see "Parents."

Part IV: Reflection

- Sign in to CaliforniaColleges.edu. Go to **My Journal**, and in the **Academic Journal** section find **prompt #09**:

"Which resources are you most likely to use? What resources are lacking that you may want or need? How can you continue to learn about all that your school has to offer?"