

In today's high-tech world, math and science matter. Whatever your child wants to do, whether it's joining the military, joining the workforce, or going to college, he or she will need these skills.

As a parent, your main job is to stay informed and involved. Your children listen to you more than you know. Parents have the power to make the difference. For tips on how, just look inside.



School Supplies

In high school, your child will need to graduate from a scientific calculator to a graphing calculator. If you live in a college town and want a fancy calculator at a bargain price, try hitting the pawnshops after college lets out for the summer. And just because you're a parent doesn't mean you can't shop at teacher-supply stores and websites! Ask your child's teacher for sources.

You'll also want to make sure you have plenty of reference books on hand, so you and your child can research colleges, scholarships, and career choices. All of these can be found in your local library or in the school library. You can also ask your school counselor or go to the nearest bookstore.

- + Graphing calculator
- + Presentation materials
- + Study guides for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc. (check your local library)
- + College guides (check the library or ask a school counselor)

You can also find a calculator online at math.com. Just click on "Calculators and Tools."



Parents have the power.
A guide to helping your child succeed.

high
school

MATHSCIENCESUCCESS.ORG

Georgia's Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics Initiative

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What to know (and do) when your child is in high school.

Ah, high school. Football games. Prom. And tons of tests. For a lot of parents (and students), high school can seem like a blur of exams, all with funny names (PSAT, SAT, ACT, EOCT, GHSGT, and such). Don't despair, though – it's all manageable, as long as you're organized.

During high school, you'll want to ask for your child's schedule each semester so you will know what classes your child is taking. At the end of every semester, be sure to get a transcript to help keep track of your child's grade point average and attendance records. Set aside time and a place for homework and check to see that homework is getting done. You don't need to be an expert on the subject to look at the assignment and see that all the problems have been completed (or, at the very least, attempted).

Ask your school about mentoring or tutoring programs. This can be a great way for your child to get some extra help and motivation.

Standardized test scores can be confusing. Ask your child's teacher what the results really mean and where it places your child in relation to his or her classmates.

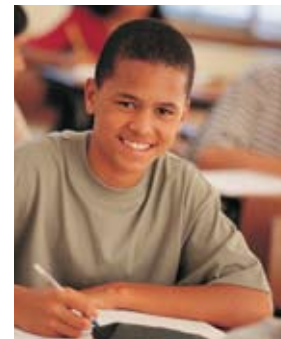
All students should be encouraged to take math and science their senior year. It will improve your child's college years, job prospects, and job promotion opportunities, no matter what he or she has planned.

Finally, make sure your kid goes to school EVERY DAY. Attendance counts. And at this stage, math and science courses are tougher, which makes it easier to fall behind.



A checklist of dates and deadlines for high school students.

9th Grade – At the end of the year, your child will take End-of-Course Tests (EOCT). Check with teachers about how to prepare. Your child should also start studying for the PSAT, which he or she will take next year. You can find information at your local library or online at www.collegeboard.com.



10th Grade – In the fall, all students should take the PSAT (the “practice version” of the SAT). It's free and counts toward scholarships. You'll find practice tests at www.testprepreview.com/psat_practice.htm.

Start researching colleges and scholarships. (Your school counselor can help.) Note that some selective colleges require higher-level classes for admission than those required for high school graduation.

If your child is not planning on college, he or she should still be thinking about which math and science classes will help with future plans. (An Air Force pilot, for instance, will need plenty of math and science!)

11th Grade – SATs are offered for the first time in the spring. Talk to teachers about the best way to prepare, and find out if after-school tutorials are available.

All students must pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). The science section is the toughest, so check in with your child's science teacher to make sure he or she is ready. You'll find study guides at www.usatestprep.com.

12th Grade – In the fall, kids should submit college and scholarship applications and take the SAT again. March is the standard deadline for scholarships, but financial aid goes quickly, so it's good to get applications in early. File tax returns early, because they'll be needed for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You can find the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Math and science resources.



There are many websites and books that can help you and your child with math and science. Some build skills through games. Others help with homework assignments. Ask your child's teachers if there are specific websites for the textbooks they use. In the meantime, here's a list to help you get started. If you don't have a computer at home, check out these sites at your public library.

www.hotmath.com

Step-by-step solutions for homework problems in popular textbooks. Includes tutorial solutions and answers for math problems found in pre-algebra, algebra, pre-calculus, calculus, and geometry textbooks.

www.satmathpro.com

Video lessons to help prepare students for SAT I and II exams.

www.explorellearning.com

Online simulations that encourage exploration and understanding.

www.usatestprep.com/front/state.php?state=GA

Georgia High School Graduation Tests.

Books

“100 Math Tips for the SAT, and How to Master Them Now!” by Charles Gulotta. Even if mathematics is your child's biggest nightmare, this book will turn him or her into a fearless giant-killer.

“Ultimate Georgia High School Graduation Test” by Cynthia Johnson. This Kaplan's guide helps prepare students for the Georgia High School Graduation Test. It includes a comprehensive review of key Writing, English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies skills.

For more information, visit:

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