

# MAKE A PLAN!

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It is important for students to start early to plan for life after high school. To support students in planning for their future, engage them in the 4 E's—EXPOSE, EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, EXECUTE—to encourage them in exploring their interests and career options, and developing a plan to achieve their goals:



## EXPOSE

**EXPOSE** your student to a wide range of potential careers and post-high school options available.

Activities can include a workplace visit or attending a college or career fair.



## EXPLORE

Help your student **EXPLORE** careers and post-high school options they're interested in and encourage them to learn more about these options.

Activities can include interviewing someone who works in a career that interests your student, volunteering with a particular group, or visiting a college campus.



## EXPERIMENT

Encourage your student to **EXPERIMENT** with different skill sets and interests to discover what they like.

Activities can include shadowing someone at work, joining a career-focused club, or participating in an internship.



## EXECUTE

Help your student **EXECUTE** the plan they have made.

Activities can include applying to college, filling out the FAFSA, creating a résumé, applying for jobs, or enlisting in the military.

# CHOOSE YOUR PATH!

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There are 3 main paths students can take after high school, depending on their future goals—education, service, or work.

## EDUCATION

**Career and technical education (CTE)** programs help students learn skills to prepare for a specific career, such as paramedic, aircraft mechanics, digital design, veterinary assisting, culinary arts, etc. Local state colleges or technical colleges offer certificates for these types of jobs.

Students can earn a **2-year associate's degree**, which can help build a body of knowledge that can prepare students for a career or further education. Associate's degrees in areas like healthcare or information technology/computer science can prepare students for work in specific fields.

Students can complete a **4-year bachelor's degree** to prepare them for work in fields like business, engineering, and teaching. They can also continue on to **graduate school** for careers in medicine, law or other fields. As part of earning a bachelor's degree, students will build a broader body of knowledge that can offer more flexibility to change careers over time.

## SERVICE

Many students enlist in the **military**, where they can receive on-going training in specific jobs that can translate to civilian work. They will also have the option to return to school later using GI Bill benefits.

Students may choose to do a **service program** that allows them to explore their interests. Organizations like AmeriCorps allow them to earn money for college through service. AmeriCorps members participate in service programs such as disaster cleanup, home building, and others.

## WORK

After high school, students have the option to start **working**. To increase their earning potential, they should consider exploring **apprenticeship programs**, which provide on-the-job training and education while earning a wage.