

## Did you know that...

...there is a new law that affects your child's education?

The *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 gives parents new opportunities to partner with schools to ensure children receive the very best education possible.

On January 8, 2002 President Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act* into law. This law changes the federal government's role in kindergarten through 12th grade and expands options for parents. Parents now have a unique opportunity and responsibility to work in partnership with their children's schools to ensure that all students are achieving academically and that the school is making adequate progress.

Parent involvement is now defined in the law as "the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities..."

Requirements of the new law that parents need to know about:

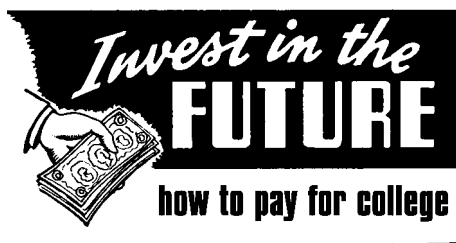
- Report cards for schools
- State and local parent involvement policy
- Testing and assessment of your child
- "Adequate Yearly Progress" by schools
- Quality teachers in every classroom requirements
- Failing schools: where are they? How can parents help?

## No child left behind



- School choice options
- Supplemental services for children who need extra help
- Migrant student and parent education

For more specific information about these requirements, contact Parents' PLACE for a free copy of "What to Know & Where to Go: Parents' Guide to *No Child Left Behind*, available in English and Spanish. Or, check out the US Dept of Education's NCLB webpage just for parents: <http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov/parents/index.html>



## Getting Ready for College Early: Paying for a College Education (Third in a series)

Most people believe that college is much more expensive than it really is. Although some colleges are expensive, many colleges are within reach. Even if a student wants to go to a more expensive school, financial aid (money available from state governments, colleges and the U.S. Department of Education) can help those students who have planned ahead and worked hard in school pay for college. The basic costs of college are **tuition**, which is the amount of money that colleges charge for instruction and attendance; **fees**, which cover other costs, like athletic activities and special events; and **other expenses**, including room and board (the cost of housing and food), books, supplies and transportation. While costs vary dramatically, tuition can be as low as a few hundred dollars per year for part-time students receiving financial aid.

How much a college costs usually depends on whether it is a public or private school. The majority of students attend **state or public colleges**, which receive a portion of their budgets from state or local governments and can charge lower tuition to students who live in that state. Students from other states pay higher tuition. **Private institutions** tend to be more expensive than public colleges and charge the same tuition for in-state and out-of-state students.


For information on the costs of college and paying for college, enrollment and types of programs that are offered in colleges, visit COOL, the National Center for Education Statistics' College Opportunities On-line site at [www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/).

**UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID**  
Because college represents an investment in our most precious resource—our children—no child who wants to go to college and is willing to work hard should be prevented by financial need. Here's what to do:

**Start saving early.** Set aside money each month, starting now, to build a college fund. Think about where your child might attend college, how much that type of college might cost, and how much you can afford to save. The earlier you and your child begin saving, the smaller the amount you will have to set aside each month.

**Apply for financial aid.** All needy students can apply for federal, state and other student financial aid to help them pay for college. The two major types of

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## Getting Ready for College Early:

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aid are grants or scholarships, which do not have to be repaid, and loans, which are available to students and parents and must eventually be repaid.

### WHERE CAN YOU APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

The federal government supplies \$46 billion annually in student aid, about 75 percent of all student aid.

**Pell Grants** are the most important form of student financial aid for the nation's neediest students. In 1999-2000, almost 4 million needy students received Pell grants. The size of the grant depends on the student's need. In 2000-2001, the maximum grant was \$3,300.

**The Work-Study Program** lets students work during the summer or part-time during the school year to help pay for college. Colleges help find jobs for students, and the federal government helps pay the salary.

**Federal Loans** are available to both students and parents. Stafford Loans for students are either subsidized, for needy students, where some of the accumulated interest is paid by the government, or unsubsidized, where the student pays all of the accumulated interest. PLUS Loans are loans to parents for any costs that are not paid for by other aid.

### OTHER FORMS OF AID INCLUDE:

**Federal aid administered by colleges** including Perkins Loans and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs)—the U.S. Department of

Education gives aid to colleges, who decide which of their students need it most.

**HOPE Scholarships, Lifetime Learning tax credits**, and other tax benefits for higher education—For detailed information on who is eligible for these and other tax benefits, refer to your Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms and publications, at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Many states and colleges offer financial assistance directly to individual students based on need or merit. Merit-based aid, usually scholarships or grants, is given to students who meet requirements not related to financial needs—like doing well in high school or displaying artistic or athletic talent. Call or write your state's higher education agency or college financial aid offices to request information about these opportunities.

**Other Assistance.** Organizations, foundations and other groups offer scholarships to academically promising students, minorities, women and disabled students. To learn more about these scholarships, speak with your school guidance counselor or visit the library.

**Serve Your Country.** Many opportunities exist for students to pay for all or part of a college education by serving their country during or after their college years. Service in Americorps, the Merchant Marine Academy, the country's domestic Peace Corps or in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) entitles students to scholarships of varying amounts to cover educational expenses. The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force each has its own military academy (a four-year college and a commission in the military after graduation), where tuition is free, but only the most highly qualified students are admitted. Local armed forces recruiting offices can provide more information. Call 1-800-94-ACORPS for more information about Americorps—a way to serve your community and pay for college.

### A QUICK WORD ABOUT STUDENT LOANS

Students usually do not have to start repaying their loans until after they finish school, and the interest rate is usually lower than for other kinds of loans. Many students are hesitant to take out loans, but remember: college graduates usually make a good deal more money than people who do not have a college education, so paying a loan after graduation will be easier than it might



seem. Nevertheless, it is important that both students and parents understand the terms of the loan before agreeing to them and know when repayment will begin and how much their payments will be.

### MORE INFORMATION ON FEDERAL AID

For the most up-to-date information about student aid supplied by the U.S. Department of Education, call the Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center at the U.S. Department of Education toll-free at 1-800-4FED-AID. You can also get a copy of the federal financial aid form (FAFS), which is required to apply for all federal financial aid, as well as The Student Guide, which provides an extensive and annually updated discussion of all federal student aid programs. You can obtain the Guide by writing to:

Federal Student Aid Information Center  
P.O. Box 84  
Washington, DC 20044

To apply for other aid in addition to federal aid, you may need additional forms. High school guidance counselors can tell you more about applying for financial aid, including where to get forms you might need for state aid. College financial aid offices can also be of help to you.

### A Final Note

A college education is a major ingredient for success in the world today—and by taking the right courses and working hard your child can be prepared to go to college. Building a strong foundation of high-level classes, and continuing to take rigorous courses through high school will better prepare students for college admissions tests and college course work. By saving for college and taking advantage of financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education, colleges and states, you can change college from a dream into a reality for your children.



# Ten Principles for Parents of Educated Children

from *“The Educated Child, A Parents Guide from Preschool through Eighth Grade”* by William J. Bennett with Chester E. Finn and John T. E. Cribb  
Published by The Free Press

**1 Parents are the first and most important teachers.** The more involved you are, the better your child’s chances of getting a good education. You can make the difference.

**2 Your teaching must not stop when schooling starts.** Some parents withdraw from involvement in education once their children reach school age. This is a mistake. Teachers cannot do a good job without your aid, support, and interest.

**3 The early years build the foundation for all later learning.** Make it sturdy. The first few years of life and then the first few years of school are critical. A solid education by eighth grade is a necessity or there will be trouble in high school and beyond.

**4 American schools are underperforming.** Many schools don’t pay enough attention to academic basics, and standards are often too low. Trust but verify. Do not just assume that your school is doing a good job.

**5 Learning requires discipline; discipline requires values.** Too many classrooms are disrupted by disrespectful, unruly children. Too many kids have not been taught the virtues necessary to succeed in school.

**6 Follow your common sense.** Some people act as though it takes a special degree to know if a school is doing a good job. Wrong. You are the expert on your own child. Pay attention, talk to teachers and other parents, and trust your instincts.

**7 Content matters: what children study determines how well they learn.** Many schools are unwilling to say exactly which facts and ideas their students should know. This is a fundamental

problem in American education. Some things are more important to learn in elementary school than others.

**8 Television is an enemy of good education.** In many homes, TV is the greatest obstacle to learning. We urge you to shut it off from Sunday evening until Friday evening during the school year.

**9 Education reform is possible.** You can change the system. If you are interested and engaged, there is much you can do to ensure that your child receives an excellent education. There are ways to improve your child’s school, especially if you join forces with other parents.

**10 Aim high, expect much, and children will prosper.** No parent, school, or child is perfect, but we all rise toward the level of expectations. The surest way to learn more is to raise standards.

“The Educated Child” is an anthology of the best available advice, school practices and information parents need to make informed decisions in education. [This article was taken from *Parent Power!* online newsletter, Nov 1999 issue, available at: <http://edreform.com/parentpower/99nov/99nov2.htm>]

## PARENTS’ PLACE WORKSHOPS

### WORKSHOPS FOR FAMILIES

*(Available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese)*

**Parents Are Powerful:  
A workshop to promote family involvement in education**  
*(Introductory Level)*

**Parents Are Powerful in American Schools: A workshop for new immigrant families**  
*(ESL/Introductory Level)*

**MCAS:  
High stakes and high standards for students and schools**  
*(Intermediate Level)*

**What Families and Schools Can Do to Prevent Violence**  
*(Introductory Level)*

**Families and Schools Together: How families can partner with schools to ensure that children receive a quality education**  
*(Intermediate Level)*

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*To schedule a workshop, please call Diana Rocha at Parents’ PLACE at 877-471-0980, x171.*

### WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS

*(available in English)*

**Creating Family-Friendly Schools**

**Opening the Door to Family-Friendly Schools: Building Partnerships with Families through the Front Office**

**Raising Student Achievement: Family Involvement Really Works**  
*(Intermediate Level)*

**What Families and Schools Can Do to Prevent School Violence**

# Education Summit for Portuguese-speaking families a Success!

On Saturday, May 25, 2002, Parents' PLACE sponsored its first all Portuguese-speaking event in Framingham, which was attended by over 100 parents, professionals, and children. The all-day event, "Families and Schools Together," helped families who have children in bilingual programs and ESL classes learn about the role of parents in the American schools. Workshop topics throughout the day included parent involvement, the role of immigrant parents in the public schools, what all parents need to know about special education, and understanding MCAS, the statewide test.

The Framingham Town Hall provided an excellent location for the Summit. While the parents participated in the events, children enjoyed entertainment and puppetry classes with Roberto Maranhao. With the help of childcare providers, the children made their own puppets and then rehearsed for a puppet show which was presented to parents twice during the day.

Vice-Consul Josina Rodrigues of The Consul General of Brazil in Boston presented a letter of support and congratulations to Parents' PLACE. In addition, Vice-Consul Rodrigues also presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Consul to Sandy Blanes, Parents' PLACE Portuguese Outreach Coordinator, "in recognition for the outstanding services rendered to the Brazilian Community in New England."

Parents' PLACE staff presented awards to 13 outstanding Brazilian, Portuguese and American members of the community for their service and contributions to family, school, and the community. Parents' PLACE congratulated:

**Parents:** Karin Agte and Miryam Wiley

**School Personnel:** Ana Machado, Lina Baptista, Maria Iglesias, Dr. Susan McGilvray-Rivet and Ana Velasco



**Community and Religious Leaders:** Urbano Santos – BRAMAS, Zelita Vieira – BCA, Pastor Elias Monteiro and Padre Gelson Dadalt

**Press:** *A Notícia* and *Brazilian Times*.

Parents' PLACE would like to thank the Consul General of Brazil in Boston and Framingham Public Schools Bilingual Department for co-sponsoring and supporting the event.

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