

COLLEGE PLANNING AND MONEY

MANAGEMENT FOR PARENTS

Mapping Your Future[®], Inc. (MappingYourFuture.org) is a public-service, nonprofit organization that offers free services to help students and families plan their careers, prepare for college, and manage their money.

Mapping Your Future is sponsored by student loan guaranty agencies – all of which are nonprofits or state agencies – from around the country. We are supported by other organizations, including charitable foundations and by members of our Friends program, which includes lenders, services, secondary markets, and other organizations.

As a PARENT, you play an important role in the FUTURE OF YOUR CHILD – helping him or her achieve life goals and dreams. To achieve those goals and dreams, you and your child may need help with college planning and money management.

Depending on the age of your child, making college planning decisions or helping them with their money management can be difficult if you don't have all the answers. **MAPPING YOUR FUTURE** can assist you with free information and services.

At **MAPPING YOUR FUTURE**, you can find out how to plan for your child's education (including how to pay for college) and manage money. Get started now by following the tips below and going to **MAPPINGYOURFUTURE.ORG** for more information:

- Help your child learn good money management skills by using the information and tools available on Mapping Your Future. You are your child's best teacher, and an understanding of personal finance will be critical to your child's success.
- Save for your child's education. If you haven't already done so, you should begin saving for college immediately. You have a variety of options available to make the most of your savings.
- Help your child plan for college beginning in eighth grade. Your child's high school years are extremely important. In fact, they will affect the choices your child may have for the rest of his or her life!
- Research and find financial aid. Financial aid is one of the tools that make higher education possible for many students. It could mean your child is able to attend the school of his or her choice, despite higher tuition costs.
- Research Federal Parent PLUS loans. These loans allow parents to borrow money to pay for a dependent child's college education.
- Claim tax credits and deductions for education expenses. Mapping Your Future has information about the various tax credits and deductions available for parents and families.
- Find other career, college, and financial aid resources in your state at Going2College.org.
- Find necessary forms and other downloads and learn about college and financial aid terms and acronyms.