

OneStops

Your Child Is Job #1

Preparing your child today, for a better tomorrow.

Whether you are an employer looking for qualified workers or an individual looking for work, your local OneStop can help you connect to the information and resources you need, such as:

- ▶ Computer Training
- ▶ Resume Writing
- ▶ Job Searches
- ▶ Job Application Assistance

To learn more about OneStop services or to contact your local OneStop, please call one of the following offices:

Columbia OneStop	(803) 737-5627
Lexington OneStop	(803) 359-6131
Winnsboro OneStop	(803) 635-2292

www.midlandsonestop.org



www.midlandsonestop.org



www.mebasc.com

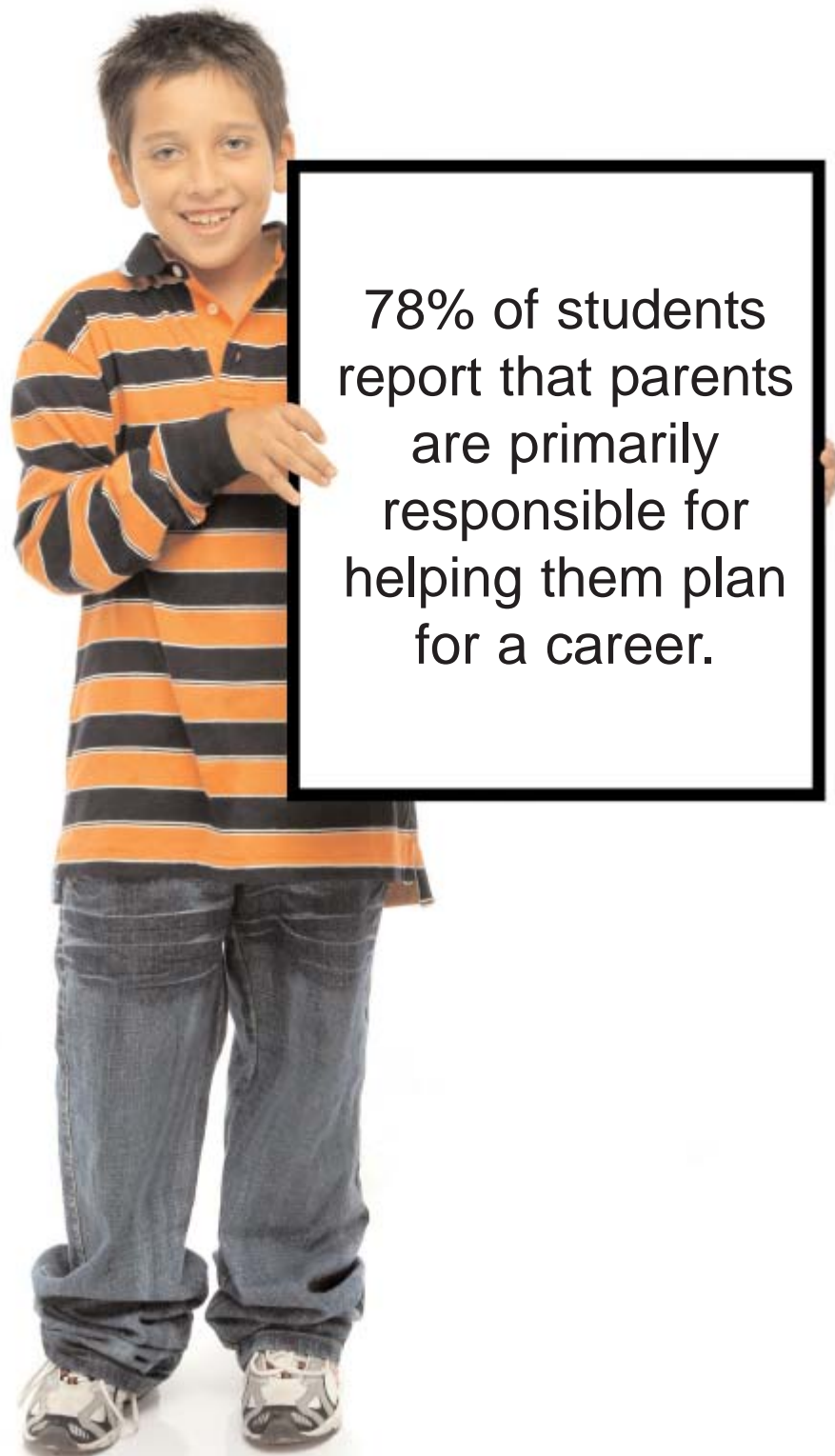
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A Resource for Parents



www.mebasc.com



Youth face many of life's most important decisions during high school and college. Unfortunately, too many of these youth are unaware of the education and employment opportunities available or the connection between education and job opportunities. The information on which they base their early career decisions is often insufficient. Making informed career decisions requires reliable information about future opportunities. This brochure is designed to give parents the information they need to help their children make informed and productive education and career choices.

Where do students get the information?

Surprisingly, parents play the leading role in directing their children to a career path. Seventy-eight (78%) percent of students report that parents are primarily responsible for helping them plan for a career. Parents who provide guidance in developing career goals can play a critical role in the student's success by helping the child focus interests and skills.

Where do parents get the information?

Parents are often well-informed on the options in their career field but unfamiliar with other opportunities and career paths. After all, most parents have been out of the education arena for some time. That is where Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) comes in. MEBA offers parents information they need through a series of *Your Child Is Job #1* workshops.

Why Your Child Is Job #1?

Your Child Is Job #1, an employer-sponsored program offered at parents' worksites, presents parents with up-to-date information on career planning and development through seminars such as understanding career clusters, the tests your child takes and communicating with your child's school. The program gives business and industry an opportunity to educate parents so they can provide informed career direction to their children. The student, employer and community all benefit from *Your Child Is Job #1*.

For more information about Your Child Is Job #1, please contact Kay Barlow at (803) 790-7502 or Stacey Westberry at (803) 739-8833, or visit MEBA's website at www.mebasc.com.

Fast Facts

- ▶ Students often cannot name anyone outside of their parents who have been helpful in career counseling, with most students admitting that parental guidance has been limited to a few hours in the previous few months.
- ▶ Many people believe a four-year degree is the only way to achieve job success. However, there are a variety of paths to success -- on the job training, technical college, four-year college, apprenticeships or the military.
- ▶ Students' decisions are often based on personal interest as opposed to career opportunity. Very few students pick jobs based on availability and salary.
- ▶ 85% of twenty-first century jobs require post-secondary education.
- ▶ Technical colleges report that 25% of their students are four-year college graduates who are returning to the classroom to learn a skill.

Top Ten Skills in Demand by Area Employers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Integrity/Honesty | 6. Self-Esteem |
| 2. Team Player | 7. Reading Skills |
| 3. Listening Skills | 8. Social Skills |
| 4. Responsibility | 9. Reasoning Skills |
| 5. Knowing How to Learn | 10. Ability to Allocate Time |

Source: The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, 2000 Skills that Work



85% of twenty-first century jobs
require post-secondary education.

Tips for Parents



As parents, one of the most important things you can do for your child is to help him or her succeed academically and plan for a successful future career. *Your Child Is Job #1* provides parents like you with information and resources to walk through the career decision-making process and provide career guidance to their children. *Your Child Is Job #1* shares information with parents

on topics such as understanding career clusters, the tests your child takes and what they mean, and communicating with your child's school. Presented in this brochure are a few tips you can use to provide positive and effective academic and career guidance for your child.

Helping Your Child Achieve Academic Success

- ▶ Have a positive attitude about education. Model an appreciation and respect for learning, schools and educators.
- ▶ Clearly outline your education expectations.
- ▶ Make sure your child is ready to learn by providing a scheduled bedtime and healthy breakfast.
- ▶ Have a designated learning area in your home for homework.

Helping Your Child Achieve Test Success

- ▶ Make sure your child is well prepared, well rested and well fed.
- ▶ Maintain a calm, positive environment in the home.
- ▶ Make sure your child understands the location and expectations of the test.
- ▶ Encourage your child to do his or her best, but make sure your child knows your love does not depend on his or her test scores.

Connecting with Your Child's School

- ▶ Get to know the people at your child's school. It's important to not only establish a positive relationship with your child's teachers, but also the school administrators, nurse and other staff members.
- ▶ Review the school calendar with your child. Post it in a visible place in your home and refer to it frequently.
- ▶ Attend school functions.
- ▶ Communicate with your child's teachers. Use E-mails, phone calls, notes and schedule visits to stay informed about your child's progress.
- ▶ Become a volunteer. Call your child's school and find out how you can become involved with school activities, events and committees.
- ▶ Do your part to make certain your child is always prepared. Return forms on time, review your child's homework assignments and make sure your child has appropriate school supplies.

Helping Your Child Chose a Career Path

- ▶ Start young. Develop career awareness by discussing career opportunities when reading books and newspapers, watching television and observing worksites.
- ▶ Support your child's efforts to assess his or her own interests, aptitudes, values and work styles.
- ▶ Share your job experiences. A child delights in hearing about his or her parents' jobs.
- ▶ Encourage participation in job shadowing and internship opportunities. Check with your school's guidance personnel for more information.
- ▶ Help your child understand the value and importance of his or her academic courses for success in a future career.
- ▶ Advise your child that there is more than one educational pathway to a good job. More than 50% of the fastest growing jobs require an associate degree. There are a variety of routes to success: on the job training, technical college, four-year college, apprenticeships or the military.

WorkKeys

WorkKeys® is a job skills assessment system used in high schools and community and technical colleges across the country to measure real-world skills. Employers may use WorkKeys to determine qualified candidates for employment and to identify the training needs of their current employees. Taking WorkKeys assessments are an important first step to prepare for education, training and a career. WorkKeys scores help compare your skills to the skills real jobs require. WorkKeys assessments are designed to measure both Foundational and Personal Skills.

Foundational Skills assessments measure cognitive abilities such as:

- ▶ applied mathematics
- ▶ reading for information
- ▶ locating information

Personal Skills measure characteristics such as:

- ▶ cooperation
- ▶ discipline
- ▶ influence
- ▶ stability
- ▶ values

For more information, please contact Donna Lawrence at (803) 732-5228 or lawrenced@midlandstech.edu, or Jeremy Catoe with the Midlands Workforce Development Board at (803) 737-0253 or jcatoe@mwdb.org.

For more information, please visit www.act.org/workkeys. (Source)



Personal Pathways to Success

Personal Pathways to Success is an innovative initiative designed to better prepare students for the workforce by making their education more relevant to their future careers. Personal Pathways programs provide all public school students the resources they need to identify and then achieve their career goals. The initiative spans all grade levels and outlines ways for all students to become exposed to various careers and to better understand how their interests and education directly impacts their future.



In elementary school...

Students will learn about a variety of professions through career awareness activities.

In middle school...

Students will explore careers to identify clusters of study relevant to their aspirations and abilities. Beginning in the 8th grade, students will write and annually update a flexible Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) with help from guidance counselors and career specialists as well as parents or parental designees. These IGP's encourage students to begin planning for their futures now, making them more aware of what it takes to achieve their goals.

In high school...

Students will experience a variety of professional opportunities through job shadowing, apprenticeships or internships. In the 10th grade, students will declare a major based on their chosen cluster of study. School districts will offer courses organized around these clusters of study.

Clusters of study differ among school districts. Check with your local school district or guidance personnel to learn more about the specific course offerings.

How parents can do their part...

- ▶ Help students choose a cluster of study.
- ▶ Offer input when students write their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP).
- ▶ Help students prepare for post-secondary study, specialized training or employment after graduation.
- ▶ Provide encouragement and support for students as they work toward attaining their goals.
- ▶ Encourage their employers or businesses to get involved by offering internships, in-class speakers and other services to local schools and the community.

Regional Education Centers are established across South Carolina to help students connect with local employers and to help implement the Personal Pathways to Success initiative. For more information, please visit www.personalpathways.sc.gov.

Clusters of Study

- ▶ Art, AV Technology and Communications
- ▶ Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- ▶ Architecture and Construction
- ▶ Business, Management and Administration
- ▶ Education and Training
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Government and Public Administration
- ▶ Health Science
- ▶ Hospitality and Tourism
- ▶ Human Services
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Law, Public Safety and Security
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Marketing, Sales and Service
- ▶ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- ▶ Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

Resources

Career Websites

The Internet can be used to find useful information about careers, career guidance tips for parents and current statistics about local jobs and employment opportunities. Listed below are a few sites parents may find helpful:

www.mebasc.com
(803) 732-5258

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) connects students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

<http://personalpathways.sc.gov/midlands/>
(803) 822-3306

The Midlands Regional Education Center is part of the Personal Pathways to Success statewide initiative and serves as a virtual resource to help you connect to the information and services you need to make important education, career and life decisions.

www.scois.net
(800) 264-9038

The South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) is South Carolina's official career resource network and provides a vast array of career development products and services.

Other Useful Websites:

www.careertrain.com

www.kuder.com

www.careerbuilder.com

www.mapping-your-future.org

www.careervoyager.com

www.yourchildscareer.org

Continuing Education

The Midlands community boasts a wide array of opportunities for students and parents to continue their education. From technical colleges to universities, you are sure to find the educational institution that best meets your career interests, needs, budget and schedule. Below is a partial list of institutes of higher learning located in the Midlands. For a complete list, please visit www.sciway.net/colleges.

Public Technical College

Midlands Technical College
Airport, Batesburg-Leesville,
Beltline, Fort Jackson Center,
Harbison and Northeast
Campuses
www.midlandstech.edu
(803) 738-8324
(800) 922-8038

Colleges and Universities

University of South Carolina
www.sc.edu
(803) 777-7000

Allen University
www.allenuniversity.edu
(803) 376-5700

Benedict College
www.benedict.edu
(803) 253-5000

Columbia College
www.columbiacollegesc.edu
(800) 277-1301

Limestone College Extended Campus
www.limestone.edu/evingclasses.htm
(803) 691-3016

South University
www.southuniversity.edu
(800) 688-0932
(864) 644-5000

Southern Wesleyan University
www.southernwesleyanucolumbia.com
(800) 737-1292

University of Phoenix
www.phoenix.edu
(803) 699-5096

Webster University
www.webster.edu
(803) 699-0900

Study Skills



Helping your child develop good study skills is important to academic success. Each child should have a homework routine to follow daily. When it is time to study, your child should be organized, informed and ready to start work. The following is a list of guidelines to help your child improve study habits.

Assignment Notebook

Provide your child with an assignment notebook where he or she records all assignments immediately during the school day.

Plan

Help your child plan what he or she wants to accomplish during the homework time and make a list. Large tasks should be broken down into smaller, manageable parts.

Books and Supplies

Help your child gather all necessary text books, reference books and supplies prior to starting the homework session. It may be helpful to your child if you collect all necessary supplies in a shoebox to have handy.

Clock

Keep a clock close by to help your child manage his or her time.

Eliminate Distractions

Turn off TV, radio, video games or anything else that may be distracting to your child. Classical music played softly in the background may be helpful. Encourage your child not to daydream during his or her studies.

About MEBA

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) is a dynamic organization with an eye on the future. The primary focus of MEBA is to build connections in the community to expose students and parents to a variety of careers and inform them of requirements for pursuing those career options. MEBA guides educators, students and parents through numerous activities and programs such as *Your Child Is Job #1*, field studies, resource guides, career development materials, job shadowing and internship opportunities.

MEBA works diligently to equip students with the knowledge and skills to continue in post-secondary education or training to transition effectively into the workforce. Parents, MEBA is here for you. Please visit our website at www.mebasc.com or call us to see how we can help.

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