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10th Grade Checklist

**NEXT
STEPS**
I D A H O

Time to zero in. This is the year to check in with your counselor and make sure you're on the right track. Keep focusing on that GPA and make sure you take the Preliminary SAT, which goes a long way towards prepping you for the SAT next year. Junior year is just around the corner.



FALL

Check in with your counselor.

Ask about advanced placement opportunities, dual credit courses, and career technical education programs that can help you prepare for college and career. You may have some new interests or ideas about life after graduation this year. Keep talking with your friends and family about your plans and ask for advice along the way.

Keep your grades up.

The GPA you'll submit on college applications starts accumulating in 9th grade. Do some research to understand how your GPA can affect the college or training program you may want to pursue. Not all schools have the same minimum requirement. If your GPA is low, you'll need to score higher on entrance exams to get into college.

Take the PSAT exam.

Try to set aside some extra time to study and hone your test-taking skills. Familiarity with the PSAT/SAT's structure and content will make you a better test-taker. Ask your counselor where to access practice tests and tools.

Join an extracurricular activity.

In addition to activities offered at your school, consider volunteering in your community or getting an internship with a local business. Pursuing activities outside of school can help you explore careers and improve your competitiveness for college acceptance and scholarship money.

Take classes that will help you get into and pay for college, and prepare for your career.

Students attending public schools across Idaho have access to funding that helps cover the cost of taking college-level courses or career technical education certification exams while still in high school.



WINTER

Think about what you want for your future.

Part of deciding how much education or training you need after high school is thinking about the type of life you want. No matter what your goals are, you can start to figure out how much money you need to earn to support yourself and your desired lifestyle.

Think about what you want to study.

Figure out which next steps are right for you. Start thinking about possible programs of study: a group of courses that leads to a diploma, certificate, college degree, or gainful employment.



SPRING

Get ready for junior year.

Do a little planning and extra studying now so you can hit the ground running. Once you receive your PSAT scores, set a goal for what you'd like to achieve on the SAT or ACT next year, and start studying and taking practice tests.



SUMMER

Get a head start on next year's reading.

There's no better time than summer break to dig into some awesome new books. Challenge yourself with different genres and authors.