Educational Systems in the U.S. from Elementary School to University

Information for parents, students, and families

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Agenda

• Settling in / Introductions (10 minutes)

• Short summary of the U.S. educational system (10 minutes)

• Conversation with Parents
  • Small groups to collect parents’ questions (10 minutes)
  • Large group to talk about parents’ questions (30 minutes)
    • If we don’t get through all of the questions, we’ll create a document with resources and answers.
Typical Path to University in the U.S. Education System

- Kindergarten to 5th grade
- 6th grade to 8th grade
- 9th grade to 12th grade
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Postsecondary Education
  - 4-year Institutions
  - Community College
  - Technical / Vocational College
Transitioning to Middle School means BIG differences from Elementary School

- Bigger schools and more students
- More teachers, different classrooms for different subjects
- More and more difficult homework and tests for different classes
- More choices in electives and activities
- Transition often happens with puberty
  - Kids are changing in different ways!
High School is all about preparing for college while going through more changes

• Even bigger schools and more students in classes

• Even more advanced classes and harder homework; even more choices in electives and activities

• Continue changes mentally, physically, and hormonally

• **A BIG focus on getting into college now**
  • Grades, advanced classes, activities, standardized tests, attendance, and community service count much more
University life is all about becoming a well-functioning adult and preparing for a career

• Students have more freedom, but have to manage their time, money, responsibilities, and schoolwork
  • Manage college class schedule with help from academic advisor

• Classes can have from 50 to 500 students

• Student choose on a major(s)—a discipline(s) that students “specialize” in

• Outside of classes, student can train for a career:
  • Jobs, internships, volunteering, fieldwork, apprenticeships

https://orientation.ucsc.edu/what-to-expect.html
Community College as an Alternative Path to University

Start at community college and transfer to a 4-year university

**Less expensive option**
Complete requirements at 4-year institutions at fraction of the cost
Most general education and some major requirements

**Need a specific, developed transfer plan**
Easy to “get stuck” at community college
Important to meet with academic counselor or transfer advisor to plan
  e.g. transfer admission guarantee (for transferring), IGETC (for general education), assist.org
Tonight's Conversation with Parents

Answering your questions about the U.S. educational system

1. Conversations in small groups
   - Collect questions from parents
   - Assign parents into separate Breakout Rooms
   - One or two presenters will lead a small group and list out parents’ questions

2. Conversations as a large group
   - Discuss and answer the questions parents have
     - Questions from Google survey
     - Questions from small group conversations
1) ¿Cómo califican los grados de los estudiantes?

2) ¿Cómo podría saber qué escuela estaría mejor para mi hijo, como es el sistema educativo, hasta donde la responsabilidad de una escuela tanto en los alumnos como en los maestros?

3) ¿Porque no todas las escuelas tienen los mismos programas de educación especial?

4) ¿Cuando pueden empezar mis hijas en escribirse al colegio? ¿Cuáles son los requisitos para Ingresar a una universidad y las especialidades de las universidades?

5) Ayudas con tutoría
Parents’ Questions from Small Groups

https://jamboard.google.com/d/17m9zoYl_LzO7HYP_zANzQLQNxC4B9WZSwQVryz9I39o/viewer?f=1
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<thead>
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<td>90% to 100%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% to 89%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% to 79%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% to 69%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% to 59%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSING GRADES & GPA**

Include or Extra?
Resources Online for Virtual Tutoring

• **Paper App: Virtual Tutoring Service for SAUSD students — FREE!**
  • https://www.sausd.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=6157&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=105780&PageID
  • https://app.paper.co/login/student

• **Khan Academy**
  • https://www.khanacademy.org/
Typical Path in U.S. Public School System

- Kindergarten to 5th grade
- 6th grade to 8th grade
- 9th grade to 12th grade
Typical Path in U.S. Public School System

Kindergarten to 5th grade
Elementary

6th grade to 8th grade
Middle / Intermediate School

9th grade to 12th grade
High School

G.E.D.
Typical Path in U.S. Public School System

- Kindergarten to 5th grade
- 6th grade to 8th grade
- 9th grade to 12th grade
- Middle/Intermediate School
- High School
- 2-year Community College
- 4-year University
Typical Path in U.S. Public School System

Kindergarten to 5th grade

6th grade to 8th grade

9th grade to 12th grade

Vocational / Technical College