

Parent Support for High School Students

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Many former and current English Language Learners (ELLs) may:

1. be the first person in their family to attend college.
2. attend college part-time so that they can earn money to support their family.
3. take a “non-traditional path” and take longer to finish their degree.

Ways that parents can support their children during high school

- Parents should ask for a translator for all school-related meetings and for all school-related documents.
- Parents should make an appointment with their child’s school counselor in their freshman year in order to become familiar with school services, including:
 - The college application process, important deadlines, and opportunities
 - Financial Aid
 - The importance of attendance, extracurricular activities and participating in community service
- Parents need to encourage their children to seek assistance from staff members to help their child compose essays and obtain letters of recommendation from employers, advisors, teachers, and community members.

Recommendations for ELLs, Former ELLs and Generation 1.5 students

- Students themselves need to learn various ways to advocate for themselves and ask for help.
- Students must attend school regularly. If students are having difficulty getting to school, they should ask to meet with the attendance officer or counselor to work out a plan.
- Students need to ask for extra help from ESL, bilingual and content area teachers.
- Students should participate in extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, volunteering) to build relationships and create opportunities to use English outside of the classroom.

Source: Robertson, K. & Lafond, S. (2009). Getting ready for college: What ELL students need to know. Retrieved from

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/getting-ready-college-what-ell-students-need-know>