



**Aiming  
Higher:**



# Is Your 9th Grader *On Track* for College?

**Welcome to 9th grade.** Your teenager's future starts here with the safe and welcoming environment, excellent teachers, and challenging instruction provided at this school.

Let's aim high. The top priority is to ensure that your son or daughter graduates from high school with the skills to succeed in college or get a good job.

Yes, college! Most jobs, not just the best jobs, will require some education after high school.

**Working together, we can make it happen.  
Starting now. Here's how.**



# THE BOTTOM LINE: 9TH GRADERS MUST EARN AT LEAST 11 CREDITS TO BE ON TRACK

Believe it or not, college begins in 9th grade. If you dream of your son or daughter going to college, don't put off planning until their junior or senior year in high school — it may be too late. Earning a high school diploma is an important and challenging first step. But these days, it's not enough — not when jobs like mechanics or medical lab technicians require some education after high school.

The good news is that all students can go to college, *if they get on track in 9th grade and pay attention to four key challenges.*

## 1. Attend all classes.

Students can't learn if they don't show up for class. Make sure your 9th grader attends school every day. If students miss more than 2 days a month, chances increase greatly that they will not excel in the class.

## 2. Take the right courses to earn at least 11 credits.

Getting on track for college means passing courses and gaining at least 11 credits by the beginning of 10th grade.

Remember, to graduate from high school, students need a total of at least 44 credits: 8 in English, 8 in social studies, 6 in math, 6 in science, 2 in a foreign language, 4 in physical education, 1 in health, 1 in art, 1 in music plus 7 electives. To be well-prepared for college, students should use their electives to earn additional credits in math, science and a foreign language.

## SAMPLE COURSE PLANS FOR 9TH GRADERS

*Goal: Earn at least 11 credits*

*Although the details vary by school, the following are typical course plans for 9th grade.*

### OPTION 1

	1ST SEMESTER/TERM	2ND SEMESTER/TERM
ENGLISH	English 1	English 2
SOCIAL STUDIES	Global Studies (part 1)	Global Studies (part 2)
MATH	Algebra 1 (part 1)	Algebra 1 (part 2)
SCIENCE	Living Environment (part 1)	Living Environment (part 2)
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	Language (part 1)	Language (part 2)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE/gym (part 1)	PE/gym (part 2)
<b>OVERALL CREDITS</b>	<b>11</b>	

### OPTION 2

	1ST SEMESTER/TERM	2ND SEMESTER/TERM
ENGLISH	English 1	English 2
SOCIAL STUDIES	Economics and Participation in Government (part 1)	Economics and Participation in Government (part 2)
MATH	Algebra 1 (part 1)	Algebra 1 (part 2)
SCIENCE	Earth Science (part 1)	Earth Science (part 2)
ELECTIVES	Elective (part 1)	Elective (part 2)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE/gym (part 1)	PE/gym (part 2)
<b>OVERALL CREDITS</b>	<b>11</b>	

*Yellow courses end in a Regents exam necessary for a Regents diploma.*

*To stay on track, students must be sure to earn at least 11 credits each year, including 1 credit each semester in English, math, science and social studies, and half a credit in physical education.*

## 3. Get good grades.

Students can pass their courses and earn credits with grades of 65 or above. But to be on track for college, your teenager should earn grades of at least 80 in each course. Students who score lower than that may not be truly prepared for the Regents exams and for advanced courses in 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

And even though students may repeat the class after school or during the summer, it's less likely they'll be ready for advanced coursework as juniors and seniors, which will make them less ready for college.



## COLLEGE COUNTS

### *Fact:*

Students who enroll in college earn an average of **\$12,900** more a year than high school dropouts.

### *Fact:*

Students who graduate from a four-year college earn an average of **\$33,200** more a year than high school dropouts. Over a lifetime, that's an extra **\$1.4 million** in earnings!

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006*

## 4. Pass the Regents.

By the end of 9th grade, students should have taken at least one Regents exam (most likely a science), and preferably a second one in Algebra I. To earn a high school diploma, students must pass at least 5 of the state's Regents exams: English, math, science, global history and geography, and U.S. history and government.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Once students reach high school, they may try to talk you out of being involved. You might hear: "It's not cool." Or: "No one else's parents are involved." Don't believe it. Your teenager needs you now more than ever.

## 1. Attend all classes.

- Set limits on bed time.
- Help your student get out the door on time each morning.
- Get to know the teachers and counselor/advisor and encourage them to let you know if there is a problem, and work with them to solve it.
- Make sure to get a copy of your teen's report card at the end of each marking period. And use the handy checklist (attached) to keep track of your teen's attendance.

## 3. Earn at least an 80 in each course.

- Make sure you know the grading policy for each teacher. What does it take to get an 80 in each class?
- Make sure your teen is doing homework every night. This varies by school, teacher and subject. Find out what teachers in your school expect.
- Encourage teachers and counselors to contact you early if there seem to be problems; you don't want to be surprised by low grades at the end of the marking period when it's too late.
- Make sure to get a copy of your teen's report card at the end of each marking period. And use the handy checklist (attached) to record your child's grades.

## 2. Earn 11 credits by the end of 9th grade.

- Advisors should be helping students put together a 4-year plan at the start of 9th grade. Ask to see a copy of the plan.
- Find out if your school has a different course plan than the samples on page 2. For instance, some schools offer double periods of English and math instead of electives in 9th grade.
- Ask to see weekly and daily course schedules, and use the handy explanation (attached) to help make sense of these program cards.
- Make sure your teenager has books and other instructional materials.
- Attend school open houses and parent-teacher conferences to learn more about what students are learning and how that learning is measured.

## 4. Get ready for the Regents.

- Make sure your teenager knows that taking the Regents is essential, not optional.
- These tests are challenging. Make sure your teen studies for them.
- Learn how the school helps students prepare. And check out all the online resources, such as <http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/his/regents.htm> and [www.regentsreviewlive.net](http://www.regentsreviewlive.net).
- Make sure your teen is ready on test day (usually in June for 9th graders).
- Make sure to get a copy of your Regents results. And use the handy checklist (attached) to record your child's score on the tests.

To learn more, check out the 20-page *Citi College Planning Guide*, with practical advice on courses, extracurriculars, selecting a college, financial aid and much more, at [www.newvisions.org/collegeguide2007.asp](http://www.newvisions.org/collegeguide2007.asp).

New Visions for Public Schools ■ 320 W. 13th St.  
New York, NY 10014 ■ 212.645.5110 ■ [www.newvisions.org](http://www.newvisions.org)

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# KEEP **TRACK** OF YOUR 9TH GRADER'S PROGRESS

## Courses and Grades

	1ST SEMESTER		2ND SEMESTER		FINAL GRADE	
	FIRST MARKING PERIOD	SECOND MARKING PERIOD	THIRD MARKING PERIOD	FOURTH MARKING PERIOD	FIFTH MARKING PERIOD	FINAL GRADE
ATTENDANCE*	Goal 92% Actual	Goal 92% Actual	Goal 92% Actual	Goal 92% Actual	Goal 92% Actual	Goal 92% Actual
ENGLISH GRADE	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
MATH GRADE	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
SCIENCE GRADE	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADE	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
OTHER COURSE GRADE:	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%

\*92% attendance means fewer than two absences a month.

## Regents Exams

	Goal	Actual
SCIENCE SCORE	65%	
MATH SCORE	75%	

Note: Not all schools offer the Regents exam to 9th graders, and not all 9th grade students take 2 exams.

## Credits


	1ST SEMESTER		2ND SEMESTER	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
ENGLISH	1		1	
MATH	1		1	
SOCIAL STUDIES	1		1	
SCIENCE	1		1	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	.5		.5	
OTHER COURSE:	1		1	

GOAL: 11 credits by the start of 10th grade


# UNDERSTANDING YOUR 9TH GRADER'S PROGRAM CARD

Although the formats differ from school to school, all students receive a program card like this at the start of each term. Ask to see your 9th grader's schedule and then use the checklist below to get the information you need to help keep him or her on track.

Do you know who your 9th grader's counselor is? Has your son or daughter met with him or her?



**NYC Department Of Education**  
**Student Program Card**



ACADEMY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

School: **32K403** School Year: **2007-2008** Term ID: **1** Counselor: **HURMAN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: **09** Official Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sorted By: **Student Name** Select Option: **Student Id:** \_\_\_\_\_ Official Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Period ID	Course Code	Section	Title	Teacher	Room #	Cycle Day
1	HS0	02	Global 1	LEWIS	305	MTWRF
2	SS10	02	Living Envir 1	MERIVIL	318	MTWRF
3	EI	02	English 9 T1	MC MURDO K	832	MTWRF
4	ACPI	01	Graphic Photo	VITANZA	310	MTWRF
5	GLADVI	05	Fresh Advisory 1	DAVID	324	MTWRF
6	EEW1	02	CR Writing	NEDD	322	--T--R--
6	PS10	01	Team Sports	JORDAN	GYM	M--W--F
7	ZLUU	01	LUNCH		CAFE	MTWRF
8	M&10	02	Math A T1	DAVID	324	MTWRF

This student is taking 5 periods a week of Global Studies this term. Some 9th graders fulfill their social studies requirement with Government.

This student is taking 5 periods a week of Living Environment; this course culminates in a Regents exam in June. Some 9th graders take Earth Science instead.

This student takes English 5 days a week, plus a Creative Writing elective during 6th period 2 days a week.

Graphic Photo is an elective that meets 5 days a week.

Some schools, like this one, have a Freshman Advisory period in which groups of students regularly meet with a teacher or other adult to discuss academic and non-academic issues — developing a close relationship with an adult.

Overall, you want to make sure that your 9th grader is earning at least 1 credit every term in English, math, social studies and science, plus taking a physical education course and electives.

This student takes Math A to fulfill his mathematics requirement. Some students take Algebra instead.

This student takes Team Sports 3 days a week and a Creative Writing elective 2 days a week. Different students will take different electives.