

WHY GET A COLLEGE PLANNER

The American School Counselor Association recommends at **250-to-1 ratio for students to school counselors**. Unfortunately, most states are significantly higher than this.

Most school counselors will agree that they are not given enough time with the students to help them in-depth with college and career planning.

Students need more one-on-one time to make a decision about college and their life after high school.

With the counselor's time and energy requested in other areas of the high school, it is not surprising that outside influences may be thought of before the school counselor when it comes to college planning.

A College Planner from a company like Next Step College Prep can be instrumental in getting individual attention for your child. College costs are too high to put all of your hopes on a school counselor who already wishes they had more time to give.

A great College Planner can work to prepare your student so that when the school counselor is ready to spend one-on-one time with your child, the ground work has already been accomplished.

School counselors are impressed by students that have already assessed their needs, desires and strengths. This gives the school counselor more time to do the best part of their job — helping to match your child with colleges and careers that fit them best. And making sure that their high school coursework will get them to that destination.

Next Step College Prep is here to help your family best prepare for college. At the end of your College Planning experience, your family will be better prepared to not only utilize your school counselor in the most effective way, but also charge ahead on your own in other areas as well.



A NEXT STEP COLLEGE PLANNER

A Next Step College Planner will initially spend 90 minutes with your child getting to know him or her and assessing his or her needs and wants. Parents are encouraged to be a part of this Needs Analysis and Orientation process.

At the end of the 90 minutes, the College Planner will have a better idea of which areas of need are most important to the student and your family at that time.

Areas of need include but are not limited to:

- Career planning and exploration
- Testing (PSAT/SAT/ACT/Test-optional colleges)
- Campus visits and college searches
- Essays, resumés, interviews and recommendations
- The application process and acceptances
- Financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships
- Finding the right college and college major

Hourly meetings can then be scheduled as the student and your family work through the areas of most need.

Source: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/home/Ratios10-11.pdf>