

PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

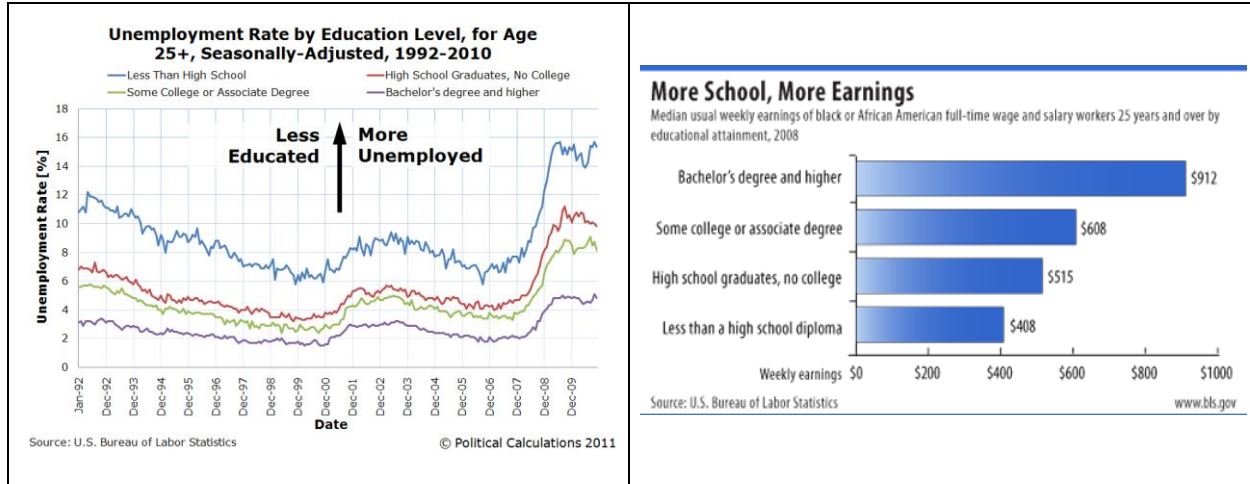


COMMITMENT-PERSEVERANCE-HONOR

YOUR GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL

WHY DOES SUCCEEDING IN SCHOOL MATTER?

Finishing high school and earning a high school diploma starts you on your path to college or to enroll in a technical training program and towards finding your dream job. The more education you have, the easier it will be for you to find a job that you love – and a job that pays well. For most of us, education is the key to success.



HOW IS HIGH SCHOOL DIFFERENT FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Registration and Freshman Orientation. High school registration occurs in early August. Check your high school's website in June to find exact dates and times. You will need to complete several documents online, and you will be assigned a day and time to go to your high school and finish registration. This is the day when the school will take your yearbook picture, so be prepared! After registration but before the first day of school, your school will have a freshman orientation where you can find your locker and classrooms and meet your teachers.

New Classmates. Your high school will be much larger than Bryant Middle School, which has about 400 students. Highland High School has about 1,700 students, East High School has about 2,000 students, and West High School has about 2,500 students. Because there will be so many students at your high school, you may not have friends in all of your classes. Remember, your classmates will not have friends in all their classes either, which means it will be a good opportunity for everyone to make new friends.

Grades. Many students are able to earn good grades in middle school by participating in class and completing homework. But in high school, teachers often emphasize exams when they calculate your grades. Here is one example of how a high school teacher might determine your grade:

50%-exams	25%-homework	15%-quizzes	10%-participation and attendance
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This means that in addition to participating in class and completing your homework, you will need to spend time at home preparing to do well on exams and quizzes.

Grade Point Average. Colleges and employers will pay close attention to your Grade Point Average, or GPA, when they consider your application. The GPA scale looks like this:

A=4.0	B=3.0	C=2.0	D=1.0	F=0
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To calculate your GPA, add the number values of your grades and divide by the total number of classes. For example, if you earn 3 Bs and 2 As, your GPA would be 3.4 (17/5). Course work generally gets more challenging in your junior and senior year, so earning good grades during your freshman and sophomore year will help keep your GPA high. The average GPA of all students admitted to college is above a 3.0 (or above a letter grade of a “B”).

Graduation Requirements. The Salt Lake City School District’s graduation requirements are at <http://www.slcschools.org/policies/documents/I-2-Required-Credits-for-Graduation.pdf>. Your counselor will help you select courses that meet these requirements. You need 24 credits to graduate, and you earn .25 credit at the end of each term for each class that you pass. If you earn an “A” in your English class during all 4 quarters, you will have 1 of the 24 credits required for graduation. As you work with your counselor, keep in mind that many students find they are better prepared for college and career if they do more than what is required to graduate and take at least five solid academic classes every semester. You can find a good summary of classes to take in high school to prepare you for success in college at <https://stepuputah.com/site/uploads/2016/04/ProgramGuide2016.pdf> (top of page 4).

“A” and “B” day schedule. In middle school you attend 7 classes every day, with each class lasting about 50 minutes. In high school, you will have 8 classes but you will only attend 4 classes each day and each class will last about 90 minutes. For example, you may have math, health, English and P.E. on “A” days, and science, history, Spanish and art on “B” days.

A Day	B Day
1 st Period – math	5 th Period – science
2 nd Period – health	6 th Period – history
3 rd Period – English	7 th Period – Spanish
4 th Period – P.E.	8 th Period- art

Some students use 2 backpacks, one for “A” days and one for “B” days. Many students find it more difficult to keep track of homework when their classes do not meet every day, but you can do it if you remember to write your assignments in the student planner your high school will provide.

Weekly Schedule. In middle school you get out of school earlier on Fridays than on other days. In high school you have a regular schedule on Fridays but on some Mondays school does not begin until 9:30 a.m. Check your high school’s website to find out which Mondays will have a “late start.”

Honors/AP/IB classes. These courses are more challenging than the regular courses offered at your high school, and help prepare you for college. Usually students take honors classes during their freshman and sophomore year, and AP or IB classes during their junior and senior year. Passing IB or AP tests will give you college credit. You can find detailed information about the courses offered at your high school at the following web addresses:

East High School	Highland High School	West High School
http://east.slcschools.org/our-school/	http://highland.slcschools.org/our-school/	http://west.slcschools.org/our-school/
http://east.slcschools.org/our-school/documents/Didyouknow_000.pdf	http://highland.slcschools.org/academics/counseling-center/documents/AVAILABLEHONORSDIPLOMACOURSES.pdf	http://west.slcschools.org/academics/advanced-placement/
	http://highland.slcschools.org/academics/international-baccalaureate/	http://west.slcschools.org/academics/international-baccalaureate/

Concurrent Enrollment. Concurrent enrollment students enroll for classes at **both** their high school and a college. Although you take these courses at your high school, they are the same as courses taught at the college. You earn credit towards both your high school graduation and your college degree, and your grades are posted on both your high school and college transcripts.

Summer School. Not all students are able to complete all of the graduation requirements during the regular school year. Because graduating from high school is so important, East High, Highland High and West High each offer courses in June, in some cases for original credit or for make-up credit, in several subject areas. Check your high school’s website starting in May for details. Your counselor can tell you about other ways you can earn high school credit, including classes you can take online and “packets” you can purchase and complete for credit, but it is almost always easier (and costs less) to take the required courses at your high school during the school year.

ACT. The American College Test (ACT) measures your preparedness for college in math, English, social studies and science. The ACT is required for admission to most colleges. You may take the ACT up to twelve times but most students take it two or three times starting junior year. Students who take the ACT more than once usually see their score increase. All high school juniors have the opportunity during a school day to take the ACT for free in the spring, and you do not need to register for this free test. Find free study guides and register for all other ACT tests at <http://actstudent.org>.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUCCEED IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Cultivate good academic habits. Maintain good attendance and a positive attitude. Take time every night to do homework. Whenever possible, do your “A” day homework on your “A” day – this way the information you learned in class will be fresh in your mind and if you have questions you will have time to get help. Turn in all your assignments, stay organized and use class time wisely. Make sure you have the PowerSchool app on your phone and check your grades regularly.

Consider participating in AVID. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a four-year elective program that prepares students for college. AVID students work together, along with their teachers and tutors, to become better students. You can find detailed information about AVID at your high school at the following web addresses:

East High School	Highland High School	West High School
http://www.easthighavid.com	http://highland.slcschools.org/academics/counseling-center/documents/WhatisAVID.pdf	http://alldaymrsmay.weebly.com/avid.html

Consider participating in LIA. Latinos in Action is a class you can take at your high school that provides leadership and service opportunities. You can find detailed information about LIA at <http://www.latinosinaction.org/>.

Ask for help. Teachers and counselors understand many of the challenges you are facing, and they want to help you succeed. Remember, you do not need to wait for parent teacher conferences to ask for help. You can meet with your teachers most days before or after school. Also, your high school has tutoring and other programs that will make things easier on you – but it is your responsibility to speak up and ask for help.

East High School. Math tutors are available Monday – Thursday from 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and there is a late bus you can ride at 4:00 p.m. Teachers are available at least one day a week after school. Your counselor can also tell you about other ways you can get help.

Highland High School. Teachers are available Monday – Thursday from 2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. in Room E216 to tutor students in all subjects. There is a late bus you can ride at 4:00 p.m. and another at

6:00 p.m. You can also reserve one-on-one tutoring for \$10 an hour. Your counselor can also tell you about other ways you can get help.

West High School. Tutors are available Monday – Thursday from 2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and there is a late bus you can ride at 4:00 p.m. and another at 5:30 p.m. West High School also has a “9th Period” after school Monday – Thursday when math, science, language arts and social studies teachers are available to tutor students, and the Salt Lake Writing Center assists students with writing. Your counselor can also tell you about other ways you can get help.

Get to know an adult at your school. The counselors, teachers, administrators and after-school leaders at your school are there to support you through high school and help you prepare for college and career. Get to know these adults, ask them questions about high school and beyond, and talk with them about which college or career might be a good fit for you.

Pursue your interests and cultivate your talents. Potential colleges and employers look for students who take advantage of opportunities. They also look for students who are disciplined and resilient. Here are some things you can do:

- Get involved in extracurricular activities like clubs, student organizations, music, art, leadership and sports. Find something you are passionate about and find positive ways to express your passion.
- Volunteer at your school and around your neighborhood.
- Take advantage of academic opportunities available at your high school and in your area.
- Stay involved during the summer. Use your summers to pursue your interests, improve your talents, get a job, read, serve your family and your community – find meaningful ways to use your time.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

Parents influence a student’s educational success more than any other single factor. Parents can help students succeed in the classroom by establishing a time during the day for homework, monitoring attendance and grades at <https://powerschool.slcschools.org/public/home.html>, and attending parent-teacher conferences and College and Career Readiness meetings. If needed, parents can help students get help with coursework. Parents can help students succeed outside of the classroom by talking with your student about his or her future aspirations, and by encouraging and supporting your student’s interests and passions.