

HELPING  
YOUR CHILDREN  
LEARN AND ENJOY  
MATHEMATICS

## PREPARING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

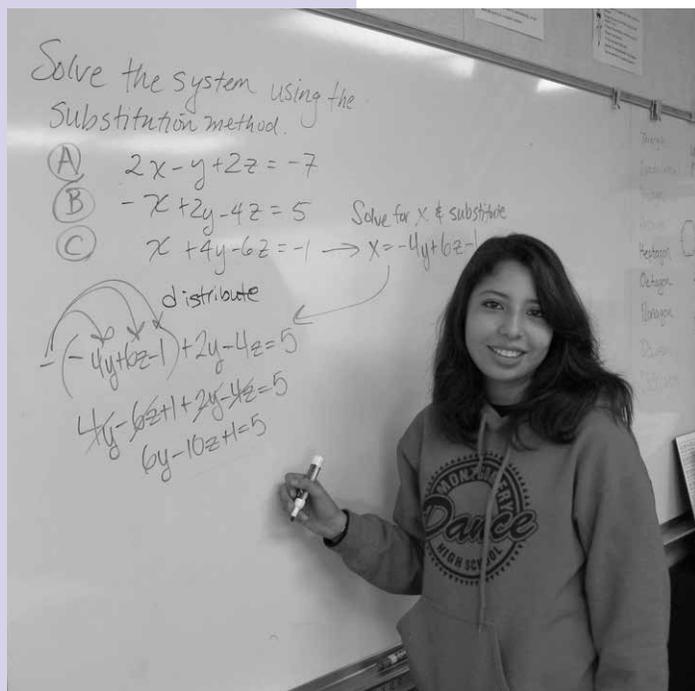
**Y**ou play a role in your children's college plans! As a parent, you can advise them, encourage them, and support them in this decision. You can make sure they know the benefits of going to college.

One benefit has to do with your child's future earning potential. It is well known that people who graduate from college usually make more money than those with only a high school education. Beginning salaries can be twice as much for college graduates, so earning a four-year degree can be integral to your child's financial success in life. It is also generally true that the greatest potential for job growth comes in occupations that require a college diploma. Jobs requiring only a high school education are less likely to lead to future job growth and economic success.

The importance of a college education today can be compared to that of a high school diploma 40 years ago. Over a lifetime, students with a college

degree—no matter what field—earn vastly more than those without a degree. The payoff is huge, and it's growing. More and more of today's jobs require a degree or credential. There are also more career choices for people who go to college, regardless of their major area of study. College is the gateway to more options and better opportunities for students.

However, college isn't only about preparing students to make a living. In addition to providing a pathway to a high-paying job, college helps young adults become intelligent and well-informed individuals. It provides an opportunity for students to spend time considering what they want to do in life, learn what they are truly passionate about, see more of the world, make new friends and other connections, learn financial



responsibility, and mature in their decision-making. College stimulates students to think, ask questions, and explore new ideas—all of which are

great advantages in both personal and professional life. Though college doesn't ensure happiness or success, it opens doors and helps create opportunities for the future. And more! Studies have shown that when students go to college, their children are more likely to go to college as well.

Why is mathematics important for college? Students completing a sequence of college-prep high school math courses more than double their chances of successfully earning a four-year college degree.

Two-year colleges and vocational training also require rigorous math, so students planning to attend community college or vocational school, or go directly into an entry-level job, should consider taking three years of high school mathematics. If they later decide to go to a four-year college or university, they will be better prepared to transfer or enroll.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

In order to attend a four-year college or university, your children must take specific required high school courses. These courses are designed to prepare high school students for advanced study at the college level regardless of their choice of major. Your children must complete each of these courses with a C or better in order to apply for most public or private colleges and universities in the United States.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

#### History and Social Science

Two years of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government; and one year of world history, cultures, and geography.

#### English

Four years of college-preparatory English composition and literature.

#### Mathematics

Three years, including Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II, or Mathematics I, II, and III.  
Four years of mathematics recommended.

#### Science

Two years with lab, chosen from biology, chemistry, and physics. Three years of science recommended.

#### Language other than English

Two years in same language required. Three years of a foreign language recommended.

#### Visual and Performing Arts

One year of art chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.

#### College Preparatory Elective

One additional year selected from the subjects listed above or another approved course.

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