

PATHWAY GUIDE



Eagle County Schools provides multiple pathways to meet the needs of all students. Use this guide to discover options and create an engaging and meaningful pathway to promote individual success.



INTENTIONAL DIRECTION: THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

The Four-Year Plan starts in 8th grade to outline academic plans for high school and beyond. Every student has an individualized plan. Plans are dynamic, changing as students learn more about themselves and refine their dreams for the future. No two plans are alike because every student is an individual.



ICAP

Individual Career and Academic Plan

Starting with the graduating class of 2021, graduation requirements include an ICAP component for every student. The Colorado Department of Education has defined the elements of the ICAP, and Naviance warehouses all those elements for ECS students. Though the Colorado Department of Education frequently refers to "ICAP's", most schools prefer to call these "Four-Year Plans".

Naviance

Eagle County Schools uses an online system called Naviance to organize four-year plans. Every ECS student has an individual account with Naviance, which they access with help from their Guidance Counselor. School Guidance Counselors, classroom teachers, and administrators guide students through all of the processes. Naviance organizes and directly distributes transcripts, letters of recommendation, cover letters, and resumes, as students engage in the college application process. Parents/guardians are encouraged to access the Family Connection feature in Naviance online. It serves as a great resource for family discussions around planning for the future. Call your school's registrar to get access to your student's Naviance account.



[CONNECTION.NAVIANCE.COM/AUTH/FCLOOKUP](https://connection.naviance.com/auth/fclookup)



Grade Level Activities

Form your Four-Year Plan ▶

6th and 7th Grade

- ▶ Examine different career fields that appeal to interests

8th Grade

- ▶ Complete “Strengths Explorer” survey to identify aptitudes related to various professions
- ▶ Create an initial four-year plan for high school

9th Grade

- ▶ Complete a “Learning Style Inventory” to identify learning style preferences
- ▶ Complete a “Game Plan Survey” and “Post-Secondary SMART Goal” to outline post high school options
- ▶ Complete a Job-Shadow experience through CareerX
- ▶ Begin resume
- ▶ Revise four-year plan



10th Grade

- ▶ Complete a “Career Interest Profile” to sharpen focus on specific career options
- ▶ Complete a Job-Shadow experience through CareerX
- ▶ Revise resume
- ▶ Revise four-year plan



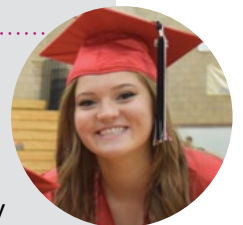
11th Grade

- ▶ Complete “Multiple Intelligence Advantage”. This assessment empowers students to make optimal use of their strengths, and align goals and interests, both inside and outside of school.
- ▶ Complete “Super Match” college search, and develop a list of “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
- ▶ Complete an internship through CareerX
- ▶ Begin scholarship search
- ▶ Revise resume
- ▶ Revise four-year plan



12th Grade

- ▶ Apply to colleges, and/or technical/trade schools
- ▶ Continue scholarship search and apply for scholarships
- ▶ Complete an internship through CareerX
- ▶ Revise resume
- ▶ Complete graduation survey





PROGRAM OPTIONS IN EAGLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS



DE Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment (DE) is a program that allows high school students to earn high school and college credit at the same time. ECS partners with Colorado Mountain College to offer college classes in our high schools within the high school schedule. ECS pays tuition expenses for students who earn grades of at least 70% in DE classes. This is an excellent way for students to complete general education requirements for Associates and Bachelor's degrees, and save a lot of money.

AP Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program created by College Board that offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain passing scores on the examinations. This is an excellent way for students to complete general education requirements for associates and bachelors



degrees, and save a lot of money.



[APSTUDENT.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG/EXPLOREAP](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap)

No summative exam required

Must receive 70% in the class to earn credit

Appears on CMC and high school transcript

Tuition Paid by ECS

Dual Enrollment

Earn College Credit

Available at ECS high schools

Students pay for books

Advanced Placement

Must pass end-of-year-exam to earn credit

Nationally recognized standard

Scores must be sent to colleges to appear on transcript

AVID

Achievement Via Individual Determination

AVID is a college readiness program designed to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college. The program places special emphasis on growing writing, critical thinking, teamwork, organization and reading skills. It is intended for students who would be the first in their family to attend college. AVID students enroll in the AVID elective class for their entire high school career. Talk with your Guidance Counselor if you want to pursue AVID in middle or high school.



Upward Bound

Upward Bound is a federally-funded program, operated locally through Colorado Mountain College. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families, and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a Bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Participants enter during 9th or 10th grade and learn how to achieve academic excellence and be involved in their community, as they prepare for post-secondary education.



UPWARD BOUND PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

- ▶ Tutoring and Mentoring
- ▶ Specialized Course Instruction
- ▶ Experiential Saturday event each month
- ▶ Intensive 6-week summer academic program where they will live in the resident hall at CMC in Leadville or Spring Valley
- ▶ Career and College Counseling
- ▶ College Exploration
- ▶ SAT Test Preparation
- ▶ Up to \$40 a month for full participation

Please contact your local CMC-Upward Bound office for more information
(970) 569-2948



[COLORADOMTN.EDU/ACADEMICS/
COLLEGE_PREP/UPWARD_BOUND/](https://coloradomtn.edu/academics/college_prep/upward_bound/)

Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award for those students that demonstrate academic proficiency in English and at least one other language. In order to receive the Seal on their diploma, students must show they are able to meet academic goals in two languages, complete community service in two languages and present in two languages to a panel of bilingual community members. The Seal of Biliteracy provides employers, universities, and scholarships with a method of identifying candidates with bilingual and biliterate skills.



CareerX: Career Exploration

The job market perpetually evolves. New careers grow from technological innovation, and job sectors grow/shrink in relation to market factors. Students require access to job sites to broaden their horizons and learn how many different career opportunities exist. Internships and job-shadow experiences help students understand the daily tasks related to different jobs. Eagle County Schools partners with local businesses to bring students into the workplace through CareerX. A variety of internships and job-shadow experiences are available, and students are highly encouraged to work with their Guidance Counselors to access these opportunities.





OPTIONS FOR EARNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students at Eagle County public high schools can earn credit outside of the traditional high school schedule. To receive credit, students must demonstrate how the experience relates to Colorado Academic Standards. Consult your high school Principal for details.

High School Credit may be earned via:

- Supervised Independent Study
- Accredited Online Schools
- College Level Courses
- Athletic Participation
 - CHSAA Sanctioned (Colorado High School Athletic Association)
 - Non-CHSAA Sanctioned

This option is helpful for students who:

- Want to study specific topics that are not offered in the high school curriculum
- Want to graduate early
- Want to earn credit when school is not in session (summer, weekends, evenings)
- Need to recover credits to graduate on time



Early College High School

Eagle County Schools operates two Early College High Schools. Early College High School students remain technically enrolled in high school for a 5th or 6th year, allowing time to complete an Associates Degree or 60 college credits at Colorado Mountain College or Colorado Mesa University. Eagle County Schools receives per pupil revenue for students enrolled in Early College High Schools, and uses those funds to pay for college expenses. For those enrolled in Early College High Schools, Eagle County Schools pays college expenses, up to \$5000 per student per academic year. It is recommended that students transfer to Early College High School during the senior year. See your Guidance Counselor for more information on Early College High School.





POST SECONDARY PLANNING

Most jobs require some level of education beyond high school. That could include college, technical school, certification programs, or training for specific trades. Use the following tools to plan for life after high school.

Visiting Post-Secondary Institutions

Starting in 10th grade, students should visit colleges, universities, trade and technical schools to identify a program that fits their needs. Every school has a different feel based on the student population, setting, climate, and size. It is important for students to visit a campus before committing to a school. Most schools offer virtual tours on their website. Students should make arrangements with their high school counselor to ensure their absence(s) for college visits are pre-excused.



Western Slope College and Career Outreach

Colorado Western Slope College and Career Outreach is a non-profit organization that promotes access to post-secondary educational options for Western Slope high school students, parents, teachers and administrators through the College Fair, College Next Symposiums, its website and other resources.

The workshops hosted at these events bring national experts to speak on the college application and selection process. The College Fair is recommended for 11th graders and the College Next Symposium is recommended for 9th and 10th graders.



The two events that every parent and student should attend include:

▶ COLLEGE FAIR

Held every October in Aspen



CWSCOLLEGEFAIR.ORG

▶ COLLEGE NEXT SYMPOSIUMS

Held every spring in Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction

School Based College Nights

Students and parents can learn more about planning for college by attending sessions on:

- ▶ Selecting a college
- ▶ Financial aid
- ▶ Application Process
- ▶ College essay writing
- ▶ Technical or trade school options

Call your school's Guidance Office to see when College Night will be held at your school.

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school. They offer more than \$150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education. All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA application to see if they qualify for scholarships.



[STUDENTAID.ED.GOV/SA/](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/)

Gap Year

A gap year is defined as a year off before going to college or university and after finishing high school. It is common for some 18 year-olds to feel ambiguity about the direction for their future. It is wise for them to take a gap year to explore options before committing time and great expense towards college credits that may not fit their professional and personal goals. During this time students may engage in travel, language studies, learn a trade, volunteer, participate in an internship, pursue competitive sports and more. Gap years provide a way for students to increase independent and maturity prior to engaging in university life. There are many programs that can provide guidance for students considering a Gap Year.



USA Gap Year Fairs

[USAGAPYEARFAIRS.ORG/PROGRAMS/](https://usagapyearfairs.org/programs/)

Go Overseas

[GOOVERSEAS.COM/GAP-YEAR](https://gooverseas.com/gap-year)

American Gap Association

[AMERICANGAP.ORG](https://americangap.org)

Thinking Beyond Borders

[THINKINGBEYONDBORDERS.ORG/PROGRAMS-FOR-GAP-YEAR-STUDENTS/](https://thinkingbeyondborders.org/programs-for-gap-year-students/)

College Entrance Exams

All 11th graders in Colorado public high schools are required to take the SAT exam. The state pays the cost for the statewide administration of SAT, and the exam is given during the school day. Typically SAT exams are administered on Saturdays and cost students about \$50. SAT provides additional essay and subject specific tests that some colleges require. Guidance counselors provide detailed information to students each year about the SAT exams and test date schedules.



SAT vs ACT

SAT and ACT are both accepted by many colleges and universities, but some only take one or the other. It is important to know the expectations of your prospective college or university so you know which test to take. Princeton Review has an excellent comparison of SAT and ACT.



[PRINCETONREVIEW.COM/COLLEGE/SAT-ACT](https://princetonreview.com/college/sat-act)

SAT Prep

Eagle County Schools has partnered with Princeton Review to bring their industry leading SAT Prep program to all 11th graders at no cost. This SAT prep program is taught by ECS teachers who have been trained and certified by Princeton Review. This prep class usually costs about \$1000 in front range communities, but the partnership with ECS and Princeton Review brings it to Eagle County students at no cost. See your high school Guidance Counselor to sign up.



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www.eagleschools.net

facebook.com/eagle.schools

[@eagleCOSchools](https://twitter.com/@eagleCOSchools)

Battle Mountain High School

Guidance Office | (970) 569-5380

Eagle Valley High School

Guidance Office | (970) 328-8960

Red Canyon High School

Guidance Counselor Krista Kedrowski
(970) 328-2848

Ski and Snowboard Academy

Guidance Counselor Charlene Whitney
(970) 328-2833

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