

Helping YOUR child get ready for the challenges to come.



Rigorous High School Courses Prepare Your Child for College *and* Work

I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide you with a different perspective on education: the business perspective. Because today's students are tomorrow's workforce, New Jersey's business community, led by the Business Coalition for Educational Excellence (BCEE) at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, has been working for ten years to ensure that all students achieve at high levels, become productive citizens, and are well prepared to succeed in the workplace.

The world is changing at a rapid pace, so it is important that you and your child hear our message. Opportunities that were available when you entered the workforce may be very different when your child grows up. In fact, many jobs that were available to you will no longer exist when your child begins to look for a job.

However, many new jobs will be created as technology changes society. Business will need thousands of qualified workers to fill these new positions. But 84% of these available jobs will require some level of college education. Even jobs that will not need a college degree will require more knowledge and skills than ever before.

Suppose your child wants to be an automotive mechanic. Mechanics have to understand a great deal of science and mathematics. Car repair manuals are written at a reading level equal to that of a junior in college. So if your child wants to fix cars for a living after high school, he or she will need to read, do math, and understand science at the same level as college-bound youngsters.

Whatever field your child selects, he will need to use his mind to solve complex problems every day. The global economy has placed a great deal of pressure on American business. Demanding courses like Algebra and Physics will teach your child the critical thinking skills he needs. Challenging courses, especially in mathematics, build the mind just as exercise builds the body. In fact, research shows that the course sequence below builds the best foundation for your child's future:

- Algebra I, II and Geometry
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Four years of college-prep English
- Two years of the same foreign language
- Three years of Social Studies
- One semester of Economics

In fact, research also indicates that completing challenging mathematics courses is the most direct path to success. Even if your child is not going to college, challenging courses will help him do better in the workplace, too. Research shows that students who complete rigorous courses in high school can earn up to 13% more as adult workers even if they don't go to college because they have the language and mathematics skills employers need. Students who complete demanding courses in high school earn higher scores on college admissions tests and are better prepared for college.

And that's good, because college is very competitive. Your child will have to work hard to get into college and will have to work even harder to graduate. But college is definitely worth the effort. Completing college can increase lifetime earnings by over a million dollars!

We want to make sure that your child has the opportunity to understand how important their middle and high school years are, so we've established a website where we tell them very clearly: Learn More Now. Do More Now. Earn More Later. We welcome your visit to the site as well: www.learndoeearn.org.

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