

# Middle School Steps 2 College

Middle School Steps 2 College is a four-part series of activity pages presented as a collaboration between KnowHow2GO, the Connecticut State University System and NIE. For more information on NIE, visit [www.courantnie.com](http://www.courantnie.com) or call 860.241.3847.

**1** FIND SOMEONE 2 HELP

**2** PUSH YOURSELF

**3** FIND THE RIGHT FIT

**4** FIGURE OUT THE FINANCES

## FIND SOMEONE 2 HELP



### HOW 2 FIND HELP

**Find family support.** So what if your parents didn't go to college? They may well have experience and knowledge that can help you on your way.

**Call on coaches.** Ask your teachers and coaches for advice on college – it's their job to help you succeed.

**Gain experience.** Track down places outside school where you can get real-world experience from adults.

**Seek advice.** Talk with your school counselor or check your local community college or university counselors.

**Make connections.** Connect with family, friends or neighbors who have been to college and ask them how they got there.

**Never say no.** Don't ever take that "no" in your head for an answer!

### CHECK IT OUT



Your school counselor or guidance counselor may be one of your best resources as you plan for college. Ask them about admission tests, college preparation and your education and career options.

Discuss enrolling in college level courses in English, Mathematics (pre-Algebra or Algebra 1), Science, History, Art and World Language.

Take a college-prep track beginning in middle school, and continue in high school so you will be ready for college!

### DID YOU KNOW



90% of teens want to go to college regardless of their income levels.

The more education you get, the more likely it is you will always have a job.

Jobs requiring higher education will grow by 22% between 2002 and 2012.

Students who complete Algebra II are more than twice as likely to graduate from college.

### SPEAK UP



Get the conversation started! Planning for college isn't something you do by yourself – it's really a team effort. But it's up to you to put together your team.

That means talking to the adults in your life who can help – from your parents, guardians or other family members, to your teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or religious leaders. If your parents didn't go to college, chances are there's an adult in your life who did and would be happy to help you prepare for college.

Plan what to ask. Write it down. Be direct. Pick a good time to talk. Disagree without disrespect. And keep at it. If the first person you talk with isn't as helpful as you'd like, talk with someone else.

College can be within your reach.

### TRACK IT DOWN



Select 5 cities in Connecticut. Is there a college or university in that city? More than one?

Search today's *Hartford Courant* for a story about a college or university.

Think about a career in which you may be interested. Is there a college or university in Connecticut that teaches classes in that subject?

Has anyone in your family attended college? If yes, what is the name of the college(s)?

Name a public college in Connecticut. Name a private college. What is the difference?

Does the cost of college have to be paid entirely by a student's family or is financial help available?

### LEARN MORE



**Center for Student Opportunity**  
[www.csocollegecenter.org](http://www.csocollegecenter.org)

**National College Access Program Directory**  
[www.collegeaccess.org](http://www.collegeaccess.org)

**Directory of TRIO and GEAR UP Programs**  
[www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us)

**KnowHow2GO**  
[www.knowhow2goct.org](http://www.knowhow2goct.org)

Next Week: Step 2  
Push Yourself



TAKE ON THE TOUGH CLASSES.  
THEY PREPARE YOU FOR COLLEGE.