



Top 10 Tips for Parents of KC Scholars College Savings Account/Match Awardees

1) Visit colleges & college fairs with your student

- ▶ Visiting a college helps students envision themselves as future college students
 - ▶ Most colleges offer free tours or special visit days
 - ▶ Contact admissions office or visit college website for more info
- ▶ College fairs offer students an opportunity to connect with many institutions at once
 - ▶ KC Area College Fairs: <http://moacac.org/events/category/college-fairs/>
 - ▶ KC Scholars Postsecondary Network College Fair – Tuesday, March 27, 2018 7-8pm
 - ▶ KC Spring Regional Fair – Sunday, April 15 1-3pm @ UMKC Student Union

2) Help your student prepare for the PSAT and/or ACT

- ▶ Encourage your student to take the ACT as often as possible, beginning their junior year
 - ▶ ACT Fee waivers are available through your school counselor if your student qualifies
 - ▶ Free ACT Prep Resources: <http://www.kcscholars.org/act-prep/>
- ▶ Find out if your student's high school offers the PSAT
 - ▶ The PSAT serves as a National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test; a high score can make your student eligible for additional scholarship funding

3) Continue contributing to your student's 529 Account

- ▶ Students with 529 Accounts are four times more likely to enroll in college!
- ▶ Small savings today can add up over time
- ▶ Set up a UGift account to let friends and family make 529 account contributions
 - ▶ <http://www.ugift529.com>
- ▶ Set up a Upromise account to earn cash rewards on purchases
 - ▶ <http://www.upromise.com>
- ▶ To make contributions online:
 - ▶ Missouri – www.missourimost.org
 - ▶ Kansas – www.learningquest.com

4) Encourage your student to pursue volunteer and leadership opportunities at school and in your community

- ▶ Big Future – Outside the Classroom
 - ▶ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-classroom>
- ▶ Youth Volunteer Corps
 - ▶ <http://www.yvckc.org/>
- ▶ Volunteer Match
 - ▶ <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

5) Help your student explore their future career with internships and job shadowing opportunities

- ▶ Hire KC Youth
 - ▶ Offers online career exploration activities and well-paying summer job/internship opportunities
 - ▶ <http://www.hirekcyouth.org>
- ▶ Exploring KC
 - ▶ Extracurricular career education programming focusing on a variety of career fields
 - ▶ <http://www.exploringkc.org/registration>
- ▶ Full Employment Council (MO) & Workforce Partnership (KS)
 - ▶ Summer jobs and internships for youth
 - ▶ <https://www.feckc.org/>
 - ▶ <http://www.workforcepartnership.com/>

6) Research summer enrichment opportunities

- ▶ TRiO Programs
 - ▶ Many offer free summer programs for eligible students
 - ▶ <http://www.kcscholars.org/trio-programs/>
- ▶ Institutional Summer Programs
 - ▶ Some campuses offer free or low-cost/subsidized early college programs
 - ▶ Connect with campus admissions offices for more information

7) Stay connected with KC Scholars & your student's college adviser

- ▶ Update KC Scholars if high school, email address, phone or mailing address change
 - ▶ Email info@kcscholars.org
- ▶ Reach out to your student's college adviser for questions, advice or helpful resources
 - ▶ Who Is My College Adviser: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kcsadviser>
- ▶ KCS Parent Resources Site
 - ▶ <http://www.kcscholars.org/parent-resources/>

8) Help your student set goals and stay organized

- ▶ Use KC Scholars College Prep Timeline as a guide
- ▶ Use a calendar, planner or online tool to keep track of important deadlines
- ▶ Big Future – <http://www.bigfuture.org>
- ▶ My Majors – <http://www.mymajors.org>

9) Encourage your student to take honors/college prep courses

- ▶ Connect with your student's high school counselor to see what courses are available
- ▶ Free online prep classes are available for some AP/Honors courses
 - ▶ Khan Academy – <http://www.khanacademy.org>
 - ▶ Open Ed - <https://www.opened.com/>
- ▶ District-Sponsored Early College Programs

10) Help your student apply for the KC Scholars Traditional Scholarship junior year

- ▶ Application goes online in January, early March deadline
- ▶ Traditional Scholarship is more competitive – 1,000+ applications
- ▶ Apply early!



Questions?