

EDUCATION

Getting an education is one of the most important things a young person can do. Staying in school and graduating is the best way you have of reaching your goals for the future. If you are having trouble with your grades in school, get help. Ask your school guidance counselor about available tutoring or assistance.

Also see **HOMEWORK HELP**, page 21.

If things are happening in your life that make staying in a regular school seem impossible, you don't have to give up. Alternative schooling may be available to help you finish your education. Talk to a teacher or counselor about these programs:

Alternative High School(715) 803-1778 or (715) 803-1148

Offers a high school education on NTC campuses for students who first get their local high school's approval.

Storefront Learning Center(715) 842-7556

Operates a small, private school offering a high school diploma in a non-traditional setting in Wausau.

D. C. Everest Alternative High School(715) 359-6561

Alternative education for D. C. Everest students, at the Greenheck Fieldhouse.

New Horizons Charter School (715) 261-0060

Charter school in the Wausau School District that serves at-risk students in grades 6-8, with an emphasis on behavioral, emotional and cognitive engagement.

Enrich Excel Achieve Learning Academy(715) 261-0103

Charter school in the Wausau School District that serves at-risk high school students.

Falcon Enterprises Alternative High School (715) 223-0118

A consortium between Abbotsford, Athens, Colby, Greenwood, Owen-Withee and Thorp School Districts serving students in grades 9 - 12, who are identified as at-risk of not graduating because they are credit-deficient.

For information about Wisconsin's virtual schools, check the **Department of Public Instruction** website <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/onlinevir.html>.

Students who have a mental health diagnosis may need extra support to complete their education. Ask your mental health professional about a referral to:

Northwest Journey(715) 675-5454

Day treatment program is an alternative to school for adolescents struggling in at least 2 of 3 areas in their life. Treatment includes group counseling, individual and family therapy in a structured setting.

EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

In today's job market, a high school diploma is necessary for almost any job. But it is also to your advantage to have education or training beyond high school. Give serious consideration to attending college because it can open up many job opportunities for you. You might also want to attend a trade or vocational school and learn skills which will help you qualify for a particular job. Your school counselor should have lots of information to share with you about different schools you could attend.

To learn more about education beyond high school, check out the **TeenZone** website at: www.mcpl.us/services/teenzone and click on "College & Career Prep".

Or, log on to the following websites:

www.witechcolleges.com (for Wisconsin Technical Colleges)

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu (for the University of Wisconsin System)

www.wisconsinmentor.org (for Wisconsin's Private Colleges and Universities)

www.fastweb.com (for free college searches and admission tips)

If you're thinking about college for the first time, and don't really know what steps to take, check out www.KnowHow2GOWisconsin.org. You'll learn how to "Get Ready", "Find Help", and "Explore Your Interests". Follow the timelines for each year of school (Middle School through Seniors) to keep you on track with the goal of going to college!

Locally, there may be help for you at:

Early Identification Program (EIP)(715) 842-0871

This Department of Public Instruction program helps students who have the potential to go to college, but who might not ordinarily consider it. It offers career exploration, college visits and work on volunteer projects to students in the Wausau area.

FINANCIAL AID

Attending college or a trade school of some kind takes money. You might need help paying for this education. There are many forms of financial assistance available for students in need. Again, your school counselor should have information on what kind of financial assistance is available to you. Ask about local civic groups, associations and foundations that offer scholarships.

If you are interested in a particular college or school, you can also talk to someone in that school's Financial Aid Office. They can tell you what kind of financial assistance their school offers. Or, check the school's website for information. Also, check the department you're majoring in, to see if there are special scholarships available for your course of study.

Some aid is based on academic achievement and some is based on financial need.
FIND OUT WHICH ONES YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR.

For more information on student financial aid, contact:

Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs(715) 842-0871

The Department of Public Instruction helps students complete state and federal financial aid forms for college assistance, and forms necessary for student loans from banks. It also provides information on and help applying for work-study programs.

Or check out the **U. S. Department of Education** website www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Many students help pay for their educational expenses by making a commitment to one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. If you think this is an option for you, call:

- Air Force Recruiting(715) 845-5080**
- Army Recruiting (715) 845-8292**
- Army Reserve Recruiting(715) 845-8292**
- Marine Corps Recruiting(715) 845-3143**
- National Guard Recruiting(715) 341-3203**
- Navy Recruiting (715) 842-1631**

