THE LEGACY LIBRARY™ · TOOLS FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

The Legacy Library

Parent Edition

Six one-page tools to help parents and guardians ask better questions, understand the money, and support what comes next — without taking over.

HOW TO USE IT

Start with Your Role, Grade by Grade. Come back to the others as each season arrives.

GO DEEPER

The Playbook walks your family through academics, scholarships, recruiting, and the road ahead.

YOUR STUDENT HAS TOOLS TOO

The Student and Student-Athlete editions are free on our Resources page.

Your Role, Grade by Grade

Support what comes next, one year at a time.

TIME 10 minutes PAIRS WITH The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

You don't need every answer. Your job is to help your student ask the right questions early, stay on track, and know they aren't doing this alone.

COACH'S TIP

Ask more than you tell. The goal is a young adult who can manage this without you by senior spring.

9th

SET THE RHYTHM

- [ ] Meet the counselor together once
- [ ] Learn the TOPS core GPA basics
- [ ] Protect a homework and sleep routine
- [ ] Athlete? Ask the coach what the program expects

10th

WIDEN THE VIEW

- [ ] Encourage one leadership role or new activity
- [ ] Talk honestly about every path
- [ ] Start a family document folder
- [ ] Athlete? Help set up an Eligibility Center or PlayNAIA profile

11th

PLAN TOGETHER

- [ ] Help schedule the ACT/SAT
- [ ] Plan campus visits
- [ ] Run a net price calculator for 2–3 schools
- [ ] Talk openly about what your family can pay

12th

STEP BACK

- [ ] Create your StudentAid.gov account
- [ ] Complete the FAFSA early
- [ ] Review offers together
- [ ] Let your student own the decision and the emails

MONTHLY CHECK-IN QUESTIONS

- *"What's going well that I might not know about?"*
- *"What's one thing you're worried about?"*
- *"What's coming up that we should plan for?"*
- *"How can I help without taking over?"*

KNOW YOUR PEOPLE

Counselor: ______________________

Coach / sponsor: ______________________

Teacher we trust: ______________________

Mentor: ______________________

NOTES FROM OUR LAST SCHOOL MEETING

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GO DEEPER → Walk through the whole journey with **The Playbook**, Section 03: the Scholarship Timeline Map.

Build Your Legacy

One thing I'll do this month to support my student: ______________________

By: ______________________ We'll talk about it on: ______________________

Support Without Pressure

Be the safe place, not another scoreboard.

TIME 10 minutes **PAIRS WITH** The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

Students grow, perform, and open up more when home feels safe instead of like another evaluation. Your words carry more weight than you think.

COACH'S TIP

Encouragement first, feedback later, and only when they ask for it.

SAY MORE OF THIS

"I love watching you do what you do."

"What was the best part for you?"

"What do you need from me right now?"

"I'm proud of how hard you're working."

"What do you want to do next?"

SAY LESS OF THIS

- Replaying every mistake on the ride home
- Comparing them to siblings, teammates, or classmates
- *"You should have..."* before they're ready to talk
- Coaching over the coach or correcting the teacher
- Talking about results more than effort

PRESSURE CHECK — RATE YOURSELF HONESTLY

QUESTION	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN
I talk about effort and growth more than scores and stats.	○	○	○
My student's goals are truly their goals, not mine.	○	○	○
My student can tell me about a bad day without bracing.	○	○	○
I wait to be invited before giving feedback.	○	○	○
Our home has time where school and sports aren't the topic.	○	○	○

THE 24-HOUR RULE

After a tough game, test, or rejection, give it a day before talking performance. Lead with comfort; coaching can wait.

WATCH FOR THESE

Lost joy, sleep changes, pulling away, or constant worry. If you see them, talk with your student and loop in the school counselor.

WORDS MY STUDENT NEEDS TO HEAR FROM ME THIS WEEK

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GO DEEPER → The parent track in **The Legacy Standard** (coming soon — join the waitlist) gives you a word for every week.

Build Your Legacy

One thing I'll say more of: ____________________

One thing I'll say less of: ____________________

Paying for College: Family Money Map

Understand the money before you choose the school.

TIME 15 minutes PAIRS WITH The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

Families often leave aid on the table because the process feels complicated. Most of it follows a simple order: get ready, file, lock in TOPS, compare.

COACH'S TIP

Compare net price, what you actually pay after grants and scholarships, never the sticker price.

1 · GET READY

- ☐ StudentAid.gov accounts for your student and one parent
- ☐ Tax returns and W-2s from two years back (the FAFSA uses "prior-prior year" taxes)
- ☐ Your student's list of schools
- ☐ A family email you check often

2 · FILE THE FAFSA

- ☐ Opens each fall, around October 1
- ☐ File every year your student is in school
- ☐ Unlocks Pell Grants, work-study, loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and college aid
- ☐ No longer required to graduate in Louisiana, but still the key to aid

3 · LOCK IN TOPS

- ☐ Apply through the FAFSA or the TOPS Online Application
- ☐ Opportunity award: 2.50 TOPS core GPA, 19 core units, ACT 20+
- ☐ TOPS uses one best test score, not a superscore
- ☐ Final deadline: July 1 after graduation

4 · COMPARE

- ☐ Use each college's net price calculator
- ☐ Separate free money from loans
- ☐ Ask if aid renews every year
- ☐ Then weigh fit with Beyond the Numbers

MONEY WORDS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

TERM	WHAT IT MEANS
Cost of attendance	Tuition, fees, housing, food, books, and travel for one year
Grant / scholarship	Free money you don't pay back
Loan	Borrowed money that must be repaid, with interest
Work-study	Aid your student earns through a part-time campus job
Net price	Cost of attendance minus grants and scholarships: what you actually owe
SAI	Student Aid Index: the FAFSA number colleges use to decide need-based aid

GO DEEPER → Check your TOPS tier, prep the FAFSA, and find your remaining gap in **The Action Kit**, Section 11.

Build Your Legacy

Our FAFSA filing goal date: ____________________ TOPS application done: ____________________

Where we'll keep our documents: ____________________

Questions Worth Asking

Better questions lead to better decisions.

TIME 10 minutes **PAIRS WITH** The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

The families who make the best decisions aren't the ones with all the answers. They're the ones who asked the right people the right questions, early.

COACH'S TIP

Let your student ask first. Your questions fill the gaps; they don't take over the conversation.

FOR THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- *"Is my student on track to graduate and for TOPS?"*
- *"Which courses, pathways, or credentials fit their goals?"*
- *"What scholarships or programs should we know about?"*
- *"What's the best way for me to stay informed?"*

☐ **Asked** ☐ **Answer noted**

FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL COACH

- *"What level do you honestly see for my student?"*
- *"What should they work on this year?"*
- *"Will you help contact college coaches?"*
- *"How would you like concerns brought to you?"*

☐ **Asked** ☐ **Answer noted**

FOR A COLLEGE COACH OR RECRUITER

"What role do you see for my student?"

"How many players are you recruiting at this position?"

"Is the scholarship renewed each year? What if they're injured or you leave?"

"What's the graduation rate for your athletes?"

☐ **Asked** ☐ **Answer noted**

FOR ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

- *"What is our net price after all grants?"*
- *"Does this aid renew? What GPA keeps it?"*
- *"What share of students graduate in four years?"*
- *"What support is there for first-year students?"*

☐ **Asked** ☐ **Answer noted**

ANSWERS WORTH REMEMBERING

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GO DEEPER → Keep notes on every school your student is considering with the School Research Tracker in **The Action Kit**, Section 06.

Build Your Legacy

Conversation we'll have next: ____________________ With: ____________________

By (date): ____

Beyond the Numbers

The best offer isn't always the biggest number.

TIME 20 minutes PAIRS WITH The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

Once you know what each school will really cost, the next question matters just as much: where will your student grow, belong, and finish?

COACH'S TIP

Numbers first, then fit. The right school is one your family can afford and your student can thrive in.

	SCHOOL A	SCHOOL B	SCHOOL C
School name			
Net price from The Action Kit, Section 08			
Major and academic support			
Support for first-year students			
People, campus, and feel			
Distance, travel home, and safety			
Athlete? Role, coach, and team culture			
How my student talks about it			
Gut check (1–5)			

TALK IT THROUGH TOGETHER

- *"Where did you feel most like yourself?"*
- *"If money were equal, which would you choose? Why?"*
- *"Which one gets you closest to the life you want after graduation?"*
- *"What are you still unsure about?"*

BEFORE YOU DECIDE

- [ ] Get every offer in writing
- [ ] Ask each aid office about anything unclear
- [ ] Ask whether they can review the offer
- [ ] Let your student make the final call

GO DEEPER → Run the full numbers first with the Financial Aid Comparison Sheet in **The Action Kit**, Section 08.

Build Your Legacy

Questions we still need answered: ______________________________

Decision date: ____________________ Deposit deadline: ____________________

Senior Year Family Calendar

A month-by-month map for the year that goes the fastest.

TIME 10 minutes, then monthly **PAIRS WITH** The Playbook

WHY THIS MATTERS

Senior year moves fast, and most stress comes from missed dates, not hard decisions. A shared calendar keeps your whole family on the same page.

COACH'S TIP

Put every deadline in one place both of you can see. Then let your student lead.

AUG – SEP

- [ ] Senior meeting with the counselor
- [ ] Confirm graduation and TOPS credits
- [ ] ACT/SAT retake plan
- [ ] Create StudentAid.gov accounts

OCT – NOV

- [ ] File the FAFSA as soon as it opens
- [ ] Applications and early deadlines
- [ ] Request recommendations
- [ ] Weekly scholarship search

DEC – JAN

- [ ] Watch for admission and aid decisions
- [ ] Send any missing aid documents
- [ ] Mid-year grades still count
- [ ] Winter scholarship push

FEB – MAR

- [ ] Compare offers side by side
- [ ] Visit top choices again
- [ ] Ask aid offices your questions
- [ ] Keep scholarship applications going

APR – MAY

- [ ] Decide and pay the deposit (often by May 1)
- [ ] Decline other schools kindly
- [ ] Housing and orientation
- [ ] Celebrate your senior

JUN – JUL

- [ ] Final transcript sent
- [ ] TOPS final deadline: July 1
- [ ] Medical and immunization forms
- [ ] Budget and move-in plan

OUR FAMILY DATES

WHAT	DATE	WHO'S RESPONSIBLE

GO DEEPER → Log every school's own deadlines in the FAFSA + Scholarship Deadline Tracker in **The Action Kit**, Section 09.

Build Your Legacy

Our monthly family meeting day: ____________________ Calendar we'll use: ____________________

Dream it. Build it. Own it.