

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC

Academic Resource Packet

High School



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City**

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES®

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Dear Bigs,

Thank you for serving as a volunteer mentor at Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City! The time and friendship that you give makes a difference in the life of a child, and we are honored that you have chosen to be an integral part of our BBBS of NYC family.

Like you, we are committed to helping your Little achieve success in life and we are confident that by working together, we can make great strides towards that vision. We both know that a critical component to that work lies in our ability to meet the academic needs of the young person you are mentoring. This may sound like a daunting task, but I assure you that you are not alone in this. Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC prides itself in being a mentoring organization with a strong education focus, and we will provide you with all the guidance and resources needed.

We provide academic programming in several ways. Our Education Initiative offers extensive college readiness programming for Littles. This includes a bi-annual SAT/ACT prep program, annual college trips, workplace program visits, and 8-week college awareness workshops. We also introduced SMART goals to ensure that all matches have specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound goals around academic achievement, self-confidence, relationship building, and resiliency. We also recently launched the Bigs Education Council, an affinity group devoted to raising scholarship money for graduating seniors, enhancing and supporting our education programming, and spreading the word about the Education Initiative to other Bigs.

We understand that the New York City education system can be difficult to navigate and there is a tremendous amount of information that can often be confusing or overwhelming. Because you are among the biggest advocates and strongest champions for our Littles, we strive to empower you with the information you need to understand what it takes to be academically successful in the nation's largest school district.

This Academic Resource Packet includes valuable information that we hope you will find helpful in your efforts to support your Little on their journey to becoming college aware and ready. It includes a profile for a college ready student, elements of the new English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core standards, behavioral and cognitive developmental markers for students within your Little's age group, a yearly academic timeline, and suggested academic outings. Just as mentoring is a powerful tool in making an impact on the overall wellbeing of your Little, this packet will show you how mentoring can also be a powerful tool in making an impact on the academic performance of your Little.

We welcome your feedback on this packet and on our overall academic support efforts. I invite you to learn more about our Education Initiative on our website at www.bigsnyc.org/littles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hector Batista". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Hector Batista, CEO
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC

Big Tips: Putting It Into Practice

Bigs, throughout this packet we offer mentoring pointers to help you on your journey to supporting your Little's academic performance in your match relationship. You'll find that many of the tips connect to one another. Take your time reading through them. We hope you find it beneficial. Please provide feedback so we can improve on our support.

New To Your Match?

Don't force academic conversations so quickly. Our SMART goals will help make them more obvious factors in your match relationship but your Little will struggle with sharing if they are not doing so well in school. They might not want to talk about academic barriers or obstacles. If you bring it up, and they do not respond so positively, either through body language or verbal cues, don't force it. Instead, focus on celebrating the small successes they do share. The more you celebrate the good things and build rapport, the more room you will have to check-in around academic obstacles.

Sample Everyday Teaching Moments.

Sometimes making it strictly about academics is overwhelming. It is okay to sneak in learning through every day match outings. Make learning cool.

EXAMPLES:

Math Teachable Moment(s) –

A Little and Big go to the grocery store. The Big hands the cashier a 10 dollar bill for an item that cost 2.99. The Big can ask the Little, "How much change should I get back?"

Have your Little calculate the tip on a bill.

Take your Little to a cooking class that involves loads of measurements. Have them calculate the measurements and measure a cup of water in a measuring cup the proper way.

Literacy/Math Teachable Moment –

A Little and Big love basketball. Pull up the basketball stats from all of last week's games. Talk about them in depth. Have your Little analyze the stats. Get your Little to understand more than the plays. Encourage your Little to think about strategy.

Science Teachable Moment –

Go to Coney Island and collect seashells and rocks. Have a conversation about nature and the rocks and seashells as it relates to density and other types of rocks. (Then go have some fun at the Coney Island Amusement Park!)

Social Studies Teachable Moment –

Go visit historical sites. Do a scavenger hunt; try to find several key elements to different sites and design an awesome end-of-the-day picture collage with your Little. Put the pictures together and send it your Little and Program Manager. While you're at it, if you're feeling silly, record reenactment videos with you and your Little at the different sites. Make it fun!

**For more tips on match outings, see our suggested match outings handout.*

Demonstrate genuine curiosity.

Learn more about your Little's struggles, interests, life and even their celebrations. If your Little is academically struggling, help them to identify their particular roadblocks in a non-judgmental way by being curious in tone and by asking open ended questions. There could be a range of reasons as to why your Little is not doing well and they may or may not feel ashamed for not being able to achieve academic success. When judgment is placed in the context of asking, it can feel judgmental; that is risky to do especially in a new match relationship. It is also important to make sure your line of questioning does not read or feel like an interview. All of this can make your Little shut down and retreat. Sometimes, Littles will suggest they are doing "good" academically. Good can mean many things. Ask clarifying questions to get a better understanding of what they mean by good.

EXAMPLE:

Big: Gail, what does good mean? A 65, 75 or an 80?

Dreaming Big.

Help your Little dream BIG by helping them think about what's possible in the future. Ask them to visualize what's possible and then talk about it. Have them act it out. Get playful and silly. The more you do this, the more space you give them to dream bigger.

Metaphors.

Use metaphors to help turn lessons into new knowledge and make experiences relatable and digestible.

Success is relative.

Manage your expectations. Your definition of success may not be to what your Little is accustomed. Remember to meet your Little where they are. This does not mean you do not hold your Little to high expectations. It just means you recognize that everyone may not have the same experiences. What is common for you, might not be common for your Little.

EXAMPLE:

Your Little constantly gets a 55 in math. Their SMART goal was to pass math class. You check-in at the 2 month mark and they tell you they got a 60, 5 points away from passing. This is something to celebrate. Celebrate it in a fun or even silly way.

Then follow-up with these questions:

What did you do this time to get a 60? What worked for you? Did you try your hardest? What could we add to what you already did to get you to a 65? If your Little can honestly say they tried their best, then you might need to help your Little figure out if the material is just not understandable. It may be that they need tutoring. If your Little states that they did not try their hardest, then you can ask, "What would your best look like?"

This follow-up question allows your Little to describe tangible action items they can work on while forcing them to visualize a better version of themselves. They then set higher expectations for themselves.

Hold Your Little Accountable.

We all need accountability buddies sometimes. Create clear accountability structures so your Little can really move to the next level.

EXAMPLE:

Tell me more about it (the situation or challenge).

What role did you play in getting the outcome you received? (Ask them to be honest, as their honesty will only help the both of you develop real solutions that work.)

What can you do differently to achieve success?

Have them develop 3 tangible action items they can implement.

How will I know? (How will the Little communicate the implementation of their action plan to you?)

When can I check-in with you around this goal?

(You want to hold them to a clear roll out date and a clear check-in date. You must check-in when and how you say you will. If they are making progress, be sure to celebrate that progress even if via text message. Inform the Little that you will check-in by a certain date and let them know that you will hold them accountable to their success. Get their buy-in around this so when you do it, they can't push back as much.)

What can I do to support you on your journey to success?

(Only commit to something that you can realistically do.)

Or, how do you celebrate your success?

(Fold a celebration into a match outing. Have your Little tell you how they want to celebrate. You can negotiate the celebration to make sense for you as well but make sure they set the initial parameters.)

**With accountability, it is important that even if your Little does not keep their word, that you do. Consistency on your part helps build trust. That trust will eventually yield loyalty and support the foundation of your match relationship.*

Buy-In.

It is important to get your Little's buy-in on anything related to their goals and academic progress. If someone else creates it, they are not going to be as moved to do it. The latter approach makes holding them accountable much more difficult.

Celebrations.

Celebrate the small victories as well as the large ones. Make a fun scene. Don't be afraid to even be a little embarrassing. High five them. Send them a power punch emoji text message celebrating them. Also find ways to fold celebrations into your match outings when Littles accomplish BIG goals. Do this while recognizing and understanding if your Little does not respond well to grandiose verbal gestures. However, even the quiet ones like to feel celebrated. It makes them feel seen.

Bullying Prevention Tips.

The DOE has great sources on how to handle bullying, how to prevent it, and how to avoid it. Visit www.schools.nyc.gov and browse documents like: "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Tips," "The Anti-Defamation League," and "Common views and Myths About Bullying."

SAT/ACT Prep.

In partnership with private tutoring company Signet Education, we offer ACT/SAT Prep at the agency two times a year. Please sign your Little up especially if they are in the 11th grade. Contact your program manager to learn more about all of the opportunities we offer. We offer 10 – 15 college readiness workshops annually, including SAT/ACT prep.

Reading With Your Little.

Bigs, read the Little's required school text with them. This is a great way to meet your Little where they are and to help them develop their reflection skills on the text. Spend 10 – 30 minutes on a match outing talking about the book. Get them to share their thoughts and engage in a regular dialogue about it. Maybe even send them a text message highlighting an exciting part of the book and gently assert your excitement about the book in everyday conversations.

Contacting Your Little's School.

Sometimes, the best way to find out about the assigned reading list and major school calendar dates not found on the general Department of Education calendar is by calling the school directly. Let your Little's parent know you are going to call the school and tell them why. Schools will not release individual student information unless someone is the guardian but at least the parent knows you are going to call. You should ask the school for a generic reading list.

Here is a sample phone script you can use to get some information from the school about what your Little is learning:

Hi _____, I am a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC. _____ is my mentee and _____ (guardian's name), their parent, informed me that I could call to learn more about what the ___ grade is learning in English Language Arts class. Is it possible to get a copy of the reading list or maybe even a syllabus/course outline so I can read the assigned books along with my mentee? I am eager to support their learning.



Suggested Academic Outings for High School Littles

When planning match activities for you and your Little, try to find activities that help your Little work towards their SMART goals. Find activities that get them one step closer to improving their Academics, Behavior, Relationships and Self-confidence.

Take advantage of this time with your Little to really identify their academic needs. Have a goal of teaching your Little something at each of your match outings.

And remember, always be sure to have your Little's parent's permission before taking them to any activity.

Attend a College Fair or Open House with your Little (within NYC).

Have your Little make a list of the characteristics they are looking for in their dream college. Help them identify those characteristics during a school tour and/or a college fair. Take the time to also mention your own college experiences and advise your Little on what they should or shouldn't do in order to have a successful college career. This activity supports the overarching college readiness goal of the Common Core learning standards by introducing deeper awareness of the college experience to your Little.

Get a Library Card with your Little.

Choose a book to read together. During your phone conversations or meetings, follow up on your Little's progress with the book (you can choose from the recommended reading list on the "Profiles for a Successful College Ready Student"). You can keep them accountable for the due dates of these books and begin to teach them responsibility. This activity underscores foundational reading Common Core literacy learning standards.

Visit your Alma Mater with your Little (if it is in NYC).

Take the time to reiterate the importance of college to your Little. Have them start thinking about their college future—even if they're still a couple of years away. Talk about the classes you took and the extracurriculars you participated in. This activity supports the overarching college readiness goal of the Common Core learning standards by introducing deeper awareness of the college experience to your Little.

Take your Little to your local College for an event (ex: Poetry Slam).

Explain to your Littles the variety of options they can explore on campus and have them start thinking about activities/ clubs and or teams they could possibly pursue in college. This activity supports the overarching college readiness goal of the Common Core learning standards by introducing deeper awareness of the college experience to your Little.

Take your Little to teen night at the MET.

Have them list the two or three exhibits they found the most entertaining/interesting and have them explain it to you and why it piqued their interest. Encourage your Little to also network with other teenagers from different schools. This activity underscores the integration of knowledge and ideas and reading informational texts Common Core literacy learning standards.

Volunteer with your Little.

Teach your Little the importance of giving back to the community. Besides programs offered by the DOE, there are small projects such as participating in a can drive or planting a tree that can be done in their local community. For more information on volunteer service days go to www.newyorkcares.org.

Attend a public talk with your Little.

Have your Little do some research on the topic and/or guest speaker before the event and have them prepare a question to ask. Take the opportunity to show them how to actively listen to the speaker and be engaged as well. This activity supports Littles with the development of critical thinking skills as well as overall knowledge acquisition in addition to the anchor comprehension and collaboration speaking and listening Common Core literacy learning standards.

Or watch a free Ted Talk, which can be found on www.Ted.com.

Attend an author book launch and signing with your Little.

Choose your favorite author or your Little's favorite author. Discuss what it is that you or your Little like about the author. Explain the writing process to your Little - i.e. how a book gets written, published and promoted. There are regular updates on these type of events on www.timeout.com.

Attend a Comic Book Convention.

Have a conversation with your Little about what they enjoy or dislike about comic books. Who is their favorite superhero? Why? What good characteristics of these superheroes could they emulate in their daily lives? This activity underscores the reading and knowledge of language Common Core literacy learning standards.

Common Core Standards for English Language Arts (ELA)

In the following pages, you will find a profile of a successful college ready student for each grade level, along with the ELA Common Core Standards, also at each grade level. The Common Core is a set of high-quality academic standards accepted by forty-two states, including New York. These learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards were created to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life.

Literacy skills are critical for all young people to develop. They are utilized in all core subjects. When they are properly developed and supported, literacy skills contribute greatly towards a child's ability to be successful.

For a more comprehensive list of all the Common Core standards for all of the subjects, please visit http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/.

Profile of a Successful College Ready Student

College and Career Readiness Standards

These standards apply to ALL NYC public school students.

Attendance

At least a 95% attendance rate (no more than 10 absences for the school year)

Note: Excessive absences can affect a student's grade so attendance must be taken seriously. When a student misses class, they miss out on important teaching and learning. Absences may be excused—but are not eliminated—for religious observance, illness, or other reasons defined at each school.

Research shows that missing 10 percent of school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absenteeism.

Behavioral Expectations

Students are expected to...

- Have no suspensions
- Not engage in verbally rude or disrespectful behavior
- Wear the dress code
- Have viable excuses for any lateness or absence (i.e. doctor's note)
- Not bring prohibited equipment without permission (electronics, cell phones, etc.)

For more information on the New York City Department of Education Discipline Code please visit: www.schools.nyc.gov.

Enrichment

It is also recommended that your Little participate in at least 1 extra-curricular activity.

- Littles should join student government (student council, student youth board, etc.) to showcase leadership skills;
- Littles should join a sports team (baseball, basketball, volleyball, football, etc.) to demonstrate ability to make a long term and demanding commitment;
- Littles should get a part time job (sales associate, library helper, tutor, etc.) to show responsibility and, if a student maintain good grades, it demonstrates excellent time management;
- Littles should join a school club (yearbook, key club, photography, culture association, etc.) to show a well-rounded nature with the ability to manage different activities.

Community Service

- New York Cares Teen Service Team (Deadline in Early January)
 - Application: <https://www.research.net/r/TSTspring2016>
- Youth Service Opportunities Project
 - See: <http://www.ysop.org/>
- More service opportunities available at nyc.gov/services

For more information on YOUR Little's school visit insideschools.org.

Community Service is something that college admissions officers look for on applications. Starting freshmen year gives Littles a head start to building up their application!

Profile of a Successful College Ready 9th Grade Student

College and Career Readiness Standards

Credits

English Language Arts- 2

Social Studies-2

Science (Living Environment or Earth Science)- 2

Mathematics (Algebra or Geometry)- 2

Creative Arts and/or Electives- 1

Physical Education- 1

Language other than English- 2

Total- 11 to 12

Schools generally offer more than 11 credits per year. To graduate, your Little needs 44 credits in the proper subject areas.

Please visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/graduationrequirements/default.htm.

**In New York State,
Regents Examinations
are statewide
standardized exams in
core high school subjects
required for graduation.**

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Regents Diploma

To graduate with a Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Mathematics (Algebra)- 80 or higher
- Science (Living Environment or Earth Science)- 75 or higher

*While receiving a grade of 65 is passing, for your Little to be considered College Ready, s/he needs to earn a 75 or higher on all Regents exams, with the exception of Math, which requires a grade of 80 or higher to be considered College Ready.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Advanced Regents Diploma

To graduate with an advanced Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Comprehensive English- 75 or higher
- Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry)- 75 or higher
- Any Social Studies- 75 or higher
- Science (Living Environment and the option between Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics)- 75 or higher
- Language other than English- 75 or higher
- Any additional Regents Exam approved by the state- 75 or higher

• In total, students must pass 9 Regents Exams

*The "with honors" designation is added to either Regents Diploma options for students with an average score of 90 or more on all required Regents exams.

*Receiving a grade of 65 is passing. BBBS of NYC is promoting the college ready standard.

Ninth Grade ELA Common Core Standards

Literature

Key Ideas and Details:

1. Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme

Craft and Structure:

1. Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Analyze works by authors or artists who represent diverse world cultures

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

1. Read and comprehend literature, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range

Responding to Literature:

1. Interpret, analyze, and evaluate literature aesthetically and ethically by making connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events and situations
2. Self-select text to respond and develop innovative perspectives
3. Establish and use criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces

Writing

Text Types and Purposes:

1. Explore and inquire into areas of interest to formulate an argument; adapt voice, awareness of audience, and use of language to accommodate a variety of cultural contexts

Production and Distribution of Writing:

1. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, and rewriting

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

1. Explore research topics dealing with different cultures and world viewpoints

Responding to Literature:

1. Engage in a wide range of prewriting experiences, such as using a variety of visual representations, to express personal, social, and cultural connections and insights
2. Develop critical and interpretive texts from more than one perspective, including historical and cultural

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, and presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed
2. Seek to understand other perspectives and cultures and communicate effectively with audiences or individuals from varied backgrounds

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest

Language

Conventions of Standard English:

1. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses
2. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation
3. Spell correctly

Knowledge of Language:

1. Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., MLA Handbook, Turabian's Manual for Writers) that is appropriate for the discipline and writing type

Vocabulary and Acquisitions and Use:

1. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy)
2. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations

Is Your Little on Track? 9th Grade

Now's a good time for your Little to also talk with their guidance counselor about where they are academically. Even though it's their freshman year, it's good to have a list of schools in which they're interested. Littles can research their academic requirements and compare them to their grades. They can work towards these goals throughout their high school career.

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Day of School • Explore Extracurriculars • BBBS of NYC Fall College Now Program Begins
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Search • Join Clubs • Launch of BBBS of NYC Bigs Education Webinars • Launch of BBBS of NYC One-on-One Tutoring Program • BBBS of NYC Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Workshop • Parent and Bigs Education Orientation at BBBS of NYC • Launch of BBBS of NYC Academic Missions and Journeys for Matches • Launch of BBBS of NYC Show Us Your Academic Swag Questions Campaign
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build Teacher/Guidance Counselor Rapport • PSAT 8/9 • BBBS of NYC College Trip
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Local Colleges
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY State Regents Exams • Choose Next Year Classes (few schools in NYC allow this; most follow a programmed schedule) • Have your Little meet with guidance to get an update on academic progress • Search for Summer Programs • BBBS of NYC College Trip
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Future College School List • BBBS of NYC Personal Statement Workshop • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Awards Applications Open
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Teacher Conferences • Summer Youth Employment Applications Announced • Summer Program Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Elevator Pitch and Networking Workshop • BBBS of NYC Networking Hour

Worried about your Little's first day of high school? Not sure what to expect? See "Profile of a Successful College Ready Student" to plan out your Little's schedule for the year!

Encourage your Little to begin building a relationship with their teachers. They will be the ones writing their recommendation letters in the future!

Have your Little take the PSAT 8/9 test. This is an early college readiness indicator. It's never too early for them to build up their portfolio! Schools may or may not offer the test. For more information, visit the College Board website.

If your Little is interested in getting their working papers for summer employment, they will need their birth certificate, a physical, and documents signed by a school official.

Call your PM to find out more about all BBBS of NYC academic programming!

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break • Summer Program Applications Due • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Empowerment Day 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Finals/Regents Exams 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finals/Regents Exams • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony • Summer Slide Launch at BBBS of NYC • Last Day of School 	<p>Did you know? Over the summer, students can lose over 2/3 of what they learned over the year. That's why summer programs are valuable. Go for Honors!</p>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Begins • Visit Colleges • Summer Youth Employment Program 	
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Ends • Visit Colleges • Summer Youth Employment Program • Cornerstone Program 	<p>Big Tip: Take the opportunity during the summer to expose your Little to new academic and recreational programs. Who knows? They might stick with it for a while!</p>

NOTES

Profile of a Successful College Ready 10th Grade Student

College and Career Readiness Standards

Credits

English Language Arts- 2

Social Studies-2

Science (Living Environment or Earth Science)- 2

Mathematics (Algebra or Geometry)- 2

Creative Arts and/or Electives- 1

Physical Education- 1

Language other than English- 2

Total- 11 to 12

Schools generally offer more than 11 credits per year. To graduate, your Little needs 44 credits in the proper subject areas.

Please visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/graduationrequirements/default.htm.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Regents Diploma

To graduate with a Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Global History- 75 or higher
- Geometry- 80 or higher

*While receiving a grade of 65 is passing, for your Little to be considered College Ready, s/he needs to earn a 75 or higher on all Regents exams, with the exception of Math, which requires a grade of 80 or higher to be considered College Ready.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Advanced Regents Diploma

To graduate with an advanced Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Comprehensive English- 75 or higher
- Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry)- 75 or higher
- Social Studies- 75 or higher
- Science (Living Environment and the option between Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics)- 75 or higher
- Language other than English- 75 or higher
- Any additional Regents Exam approved by the state- 75 or higher
- In total, students must pass 9 Regents Exams

*The "with honors" designation is added to either Regents Diploma options for students with an average score of 90 or more on all required Regents exams.

*Receiving a grade of 65 is passing. BBBS of NYC is promoting the college ready standard.

**In New York State,
Regents Examinations
are statewide
standardized exams in
core high school subjects
required for graduation.**

Extra Testing

Preliminary SAT (PSAT)- 133 (College Readiness Standard)

Advanced Placement

AP Exams measure your Little's mastery of university-level course content. It also provides your Little with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or the opportunity to skip an introductory-level university course.

A Score of 4 or 5 signifies that your Little is well qualified in the subject and proved themselves capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college. Each individual college decides which scores it will accept.

See www.collegeboard.org for a full list of exams.

College Credit

Encourage your Little to take a college level class at her/his school (if offered). CUNY also offers college level courses on evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings through its College Now program. Littles should contact the local colleges or speak with their guidance/college counselor for more information. Remember that BBBS of NYC has a partnership with Borough of Manhattan Community College's College Now office.

Tenth Grade ELA Common Core Standards

Literature

Key Ideas and Details:

1. Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme

Craft and Structure:

1. Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Analyze works by authors or artists who represent diverse world cultures

Responding to Literature:

1. Interpret, analyze, and evaluate literature aesthetically and ethically by making connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events and situations
2. Self-select text to respond and develop innovative perspectives
3. Establish and use criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces

Writing

Text Types and Purposes:

1. Explore and inquire into areas of interest to formulate an argument; adapt voice, awareness of audience, and use of language to accommodate a variety of cultural contexts

Production and Distribution of Writing:

1. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, and rewriting

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

1. Explore research topics dealing with different cultures and world viewpoints

Responding to Literature:

1. Engage in a wide range of prewriting experiences, such as using a variety of visual representations, to express personal, social, and cultural connections and insights
2. Develop critical and interpretive texts from more than one perspective, including historical and cultural

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, and presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed
2. Seek to understand other perspectives and cultures and communicate effectively with audiences or individuals from varied backgrounds

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest

Language

Conventions of Standard English:

1. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses
2. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation
3. Spell correctly

Knowledge of Language:

1. Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., MLA Handbook, Turabian's Manual for Writers) that is appropriate for the discipline and writing type

Vocabulary and Acquisitions and Use:

1. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy)
2. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations

Is Your Little on Track? 10th Grade

- September**
- First Day of School
 - BBBS of NYC Launch of Think College Now Program
 - BBBS of NYC Fall College Now Program Begins

It's time to do some more College Research! Your Little is now one year away from college exams. Motivate them to start early, help them research schools, and show them what to look for.

- October**
- Explore Extracurricular Activities
 - Meet with Guidance Counselor
 - PSAT Exam Administered by the School
 - Launch of BBBS of NYC Bigs Education Webinars
 - Launch of BBBS of NYC One-on-One Tutoring Program
 - BBBS of NYC Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Workshop
 - Parent and Bigs Education Orientation at BBBS of NYC
 - Launch of BBBS of NYC Academic Missions and Journeys for Matches
 - Launch of BBBS of NYC Show Us Your Academic Swag Questions Campaign
 - PSAT Exam

Call your PM to find out more about all BBBS of NYC academic programming!

Besides extracurricular activities being a great addition to a college application, it's also a great way for Littles to channel stress from schoolwork and make friends who have the same interests!

- November**
- Increase Extracurricular Participation, including Community Service Activities
 - BBBS of NYC College Trip
 - PSAT Exam

- December**
- College Research
 - BBBS of NYC Spring 2017 College Now Applications Due

If your Little is interested in getting their working papers for summer employment, they need their birth certificate, a physical, and documents signed by a school official.

- January**
- NY State Regents
 - BBBS of NYC College Trip

- February**
- Have your Little meet with their Guidance Counselor
 - SAT Practice Exam
 - BBBS of NYC SAT Prep Course (10 week program)
 - BBBS of NYC Personal Statement Workshop
 - BBBS of NYC College Trip
 - BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Awards Application Open

It's a good idea for your Little to meet consistently with their guidance counselor to plan out their classes and make sure they're on track for college.

March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Teacher Conference • Summer Youth Employment Applications Open • Summer Program Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Elevator Pitch and Networking Workshop • BBBS of NYC Networking Hour
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Finals • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Empowerment Day
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Finals/Regents Exams
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finals • NY State Regents Exams • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony • Summer Slide Launch at BBBS of NYC • Last Day of School • BBBS of NYC Fall College Now Applications Due
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Begins • Visit Colleges • Summer Youth Employment Program
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Ends • Visit Colleges • Summer Youth Employment Program

Big Tip: Take the opportunity during the summer to introduce your Little to new academic and recreational programs.

Did you know?
Over the summer, students can lose over 2/3 of what they learned over the year. That's why summer programs are valuable. Go for Honors!

NOTES

Profile of a Successful College Ready 11th Grade Student

College and Career Readiness Standards

Credits

English Language Arts- 2

Social Studies-2

Science (Living Environment or Earth Science)- 2

Mathematics (Algebra or Geometry)- 2

Creative Arts and/or Electives- 1

Physical Education- 1

Language other than English- 2

Total- 11 to 12

Schools generally offer more than 11 credits per year. To graduate, your Little needs 44 credits in the proper subject areas.

Please visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/graduationrequirements/default.htm.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Regents Diploma

To graduate with a Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- U.S. History- 75 or higher
- Language other than English- 75 or higher
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry- 80 or higher
- English Language Arts- 75 or higher

*While receiving a grade of 65 is passing, for your Little to be considered College Ready, s/he needs to earn a 75 or higher on all Regents exams, with the exception of Math, which requires a grade of 80 or higher to be considered College Ready.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Advanced Regents Diploma

To graduate with an advanced Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Comprehensive English- 75 or higher
- Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry)- 75 or higher
- Any Social Studies- 75 or higher
- Science (Living Environment and the option between Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics)- 75 or higher
- Language other than English- 75 or higher
- Any additional Regents Exam approved by the state- 75 or higher
- In total, students must pass 9 regents exams

*The "with honors" designation is added to either Regents Diploma options for students with an average score of 90 or more on all required Regents exams.

*Receiving a grade of 65 is passing. BBBS of NYC is promoting the college ready standard.

**In New York State,
Regents Examinations
are statewide
standardized exams in
core high school subjects
required for graduation.**

Extra Testing

Preliminary SAT (PSAT)- 133 (College Readiness Standard)

SAT Exam in the Spring

Advanced Placement

AP Exams measure your Little's mastery of university-level course content. It also provides your Little with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or the opportunity to skip an introductory-level university course.

A Score of 4 or 5 signifies that your Little is well qualified in the subject and proved themselves capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college. Each individual college decides which scores it will accept.

See www.collegeboard.org for a full list of exams.

College Credit

Encourage your Little to take a college level class at her/his school (if offered). CUNY also offers college level courses on evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings through its College Now program. Littles should contact the local colleges or speak with their guidance/college counselor for more information. Remember that BBBS of NYC has a partnership with Borough of Manhattan Community College's College Now office.

Eleventh Grade ELA Common Core Standards

Literature

Key Ideas and Details:

1. Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama

Craft and Structure:

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Analyze multiple interpretations of full-length works by authors who represent diverse world cultures

Responding to Literature:

1. Self-select text to respond and develop innovative perspectives
2. Establish and use criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces

Writing

Text Types and Purposes:

1. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence

Production and Distribution of Writing:

1. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

1. Explore topics dealing with different cultures and world viewpoints

Responding to Literature:

1. Develop innovative perspectives on texts, including historical, cultural, sociological, and psychological contexts
2. Create poetry, stories, plays, and other literary forms (e.g. videos, art work)

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used
2. Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate
2. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks

Language

Conventions of Standard English:

1. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested
2. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references

Knowledge of Language:

1. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:

1. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage
2. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text

Is Your Little on Track? 11th Grade

September

- First Day of School
- Choose Classes
- Begin ACT/SAT Test Prep
- Have your Little meet with Guidance/College Counselor
- SAT Practice Exam
- BBBS of NYC SAT Prep Course
- BBBS of NYC Fall College Now Program Begins

This is an important year for colleges! Make sure your Little is on top of their deadlines, school work and extracurricular activities.

October

- PSAT Exam Administered
- Research Colleges; develop college list
- Explore Extracurricular activities
- Have your Little meet with their Guidance/College Counselor
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Bigs Education Webinars
- Launch of BBBS of NYC One-on-One Tutoring Program
- BBBS of NYC Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Workshop
- Parent and Bigs Education Orientation at BBBS of NYC
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Academic Missions and Journeys for Matches
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Show Us Your Academic Swag Questions Campaign
- PSAT Exam

Call your PM to find out more about all BBBS of NYC academic programming!

Make sure your Little gets as much SAT/ACT Prep as they can. Fortunately, they can take both exams more than once. So make sure they ACE IT!

November

- Enroll in an ACT/SAT Test Prep
- Increase Participation in Extracurricular Activities, Including Community Service Activities
- BBBS of NYC College Trip
- PSAT Exam

December

- SAT/ACT Test Prep
- Visit local colleges
- Begin scholarship search process; some scholarships are open to juniors
- SAT Exam
- BBBS of NYC Spring 2017 College Now Applications Due

January

- NY State Regents Exams
- Choose Next Year Classes
- SAT/ACT Test Prep
- Have your Little meet with Guidance/College Counselor
- BBBS of NYC College Trip
- BBBS of NYC SAT Prep Course (10 week program)

Work with your Little on creating a college list that has 4 reach schools, 4 match schools and 4 safety schools.

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit local colleges on break • SAT Practice Exam • BBBS of NYC Personal Statement Workshop • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Awards Applications open
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Teacher Conference • SAT/ACT Test Prep • Summer Youth Employment Program Applications open • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Elevator Pitch and Networking Workshop • BBBS of NYC Networking Hour
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAT Exam • Narrow Down College List • Prepare for Finals • Schedule visits to top choice colleges • Research the colleges through reading materials and online videos and support systems • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Empowerment Day
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your Little meet with their Guidance/ College Counselor • Request Recommendations
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAT Exam • Begin Personal Statement • Finals/ Regents Exams • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony • Summer Slide Launch at BBBS of NYC • BBBS of NYC Fall College Now Applications Due • Last Day of School
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Begins • Visit Colleges • Research Scholarships • Summer Youth Employment Program
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Ends • Visit Colleges • Finalize Personal Statement • Finalize College List • Summer Youth Employment Program • Determine if Little has to retake the standardized test

If your Little is interested in getting their working papers for summer employment, they need their birth certificate, a physical, and documents signed by a school official.

It's time to get recommendations! Fortunately, your Little has been building relationships with their teachers and school advisors since freshman year.

Littles begin working on their personal statements earlier in the Spring. Support them with it, as it is an important part of the application process.

Did you know?
Over the summer, students can lose over 2/3 of what they learned over the year. That's why summer programs are valuable. Go for Honors!

Did you know?
Make sure your Little doesn't feel overwhelmed. Continue to help your Little with their personal statement and summer plans.

Profile of a Successful College Ready 12th Grade Student

College and Career Readiness Standards

Credits

English Language Arts- 2

Social Studies-2

Science (Living Environment or Earth Science)- 2

Mathematics (Algebra or Geometry)- 2

Creative Arts and/or Electives- 1

Physical Education- 1

Total- 11

To graduate, your Little needs 44 credits in the proper subject areas.

Please visit schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/graduationrequirements/default.htm.

**In New York State,
Regents Examinations
are statewide
standardized exams in
core high school subjects
required for graduation.**

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Regents Diploma

To graduate with a Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn at least a 65 on 5 Regents Exams.

*While receiving a grade of 65 is passing, for your Little to be considered College Ready, s/he needs to earn a 75 or higher on all Regents exams, with the exception of Math, which requires a grade of 80 or higher to be considered College Ready.

Statewide Assessment Requirements for Advanced Regents Diploma

To graduate with an advanced Regents diploma, your Little will need to earn the following marks in the following subject areas:

- Comprehensive English- 75 or higher
- Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry)- 75 or higher
- Any Social Studies- 75 or higher
- Science (Living Environment and the option between Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics)- 75 or higher
- Language other than English- 75 or higher
- Any additional Regents Exam approved by the state- 75 or higher
- In total, students must pass 9 Regents Exams

*The "with honors" designation is added to either Regents Diploma options for students with an average score of 90 or more on all required Regents Exams.

*Receiving a grade of 65 is passing. BBBS of NYC is promoting the college ready standard.

Extra Testing

Preliminary SAT (PSAT)- 133 (College Readiness Standard)

SAT Exam in the Fall

Advanced Placement

AP Exams measure your Little's mastery of university-level course content. It also provides your Little with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or the opportunity to skip an introductory-level university course.

A Score of 4 or 5 signifies that your Little is well qualified in the subject and proved themselves capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college. Each individual college decides which scores it will accept.

See www.collegeboard.org for a full list of exams.

College Credit

Encourage your Little to take a college level class at her/his school (if offered). CUNY also offers college level courses on evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings through its College Now program. Littles should contact the local colleges or speak with their guidance/college counselor for more information. Remember that BBBS of NYC has a partnership with Borough of Manhattan Community College's College Now office.

Twelfth Grade ELA Common Core Standards

Literature

Key Ideas and Details:

1. Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama

Craft and Structure:

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Analyze multiple interpretations of full-length works by authors who represent diverse world cultures

Responding to Literature:

1. Self-select text to respond and develop innovative perspectives
2. Establish and use criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces

Writing

Text Types and Purposes:

1. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence

Production and Distribution of Writing:

1. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

1. Explore topics dealing with different cultures and world viewpoints

Responding to Literature:

1. Develop innovative perspectives on texts, including historical, cultural, sociological, and psychological contexts
2. Create poetry, stories, plays, and other literary forms (e.g. videos, art work)

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used
2. Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

1. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate
2. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks

Language

Conventions of Standard English:

1. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested
2. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references

Knowledge of Language:

1. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:

1. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage
2. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text

Is Your Little on Track? 12th Grade

September

- First Day of School
- Choose Classes
- Begin ACT/SAT Test Prep
- Have your Little meet with their Guidance/ College Counselor
- SAT Practice Exam
- BBBS of NYC SAT Prep Course
- Start working on College Applications
- Scholarship search process; continues throughout Fall

This is an important year for colleges! Make sure your Little is on top of their deadlines, school work and extracurricular activities.

October

- Fine tune college list
- Explore Extracurricular activities
- Have your Little meet with Guidance/ College Counselor
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Bigs Education Webinars
- Request recommendations
- Launch of BBBS of NYC One-on-One Tutoring Program
- BBBS of NYC Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Workshop
- Financial Aid Application open
- Parent and Bigs Education Orientation at BBBS of NYC
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Academic Missions and Journeys for Matches
- Launch of BBBS of NYC Show Us Your Academic Swag Questions Campaign
- SAT Exam
- College Applications

Call your PM to find out more about all BBBS of NYC academic programming!

Make sure your Little gets as much SAT/ACT Prep as they can. Fortunately, they can take both exams more than once. So make sure they ACE IT!

December is the last time Littles can take the SAT/ACT Exams for college applications.

November

- BBBS of NYC College Trip
- College Applications

December

- SAT/ACT Test Prep
- Visit local colleges
- SAT Exam
- BBBS of NYC Spring 2017 College Now Applications Due

January

- NY State Regents Exams
- Have your Little meet with their Guidance/ College Counselor
- BBBS of NYC College Trip

Graduating Seniors may need to retake some Regents Exams.

Work with your Little on creating a college list that has 4 reach schools, 4 match schools and 4 safety schools.

It's time to get recommendations! Fortunately, your Little has been building relationships with their teachers and school advisors since freshman year.

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBBS of NYC Personal Statement Workshop • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Scholarships and Award Applications open
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Teacher Conference • Summer Youth Employment Program Applications open • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Elevator Pitch and Networking Workshop • BBBS of NYC Networking Hour
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Finals • Time to choose which college to attend! • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony Applications Due • BBBS of NYC College Trip • BBBS of NYC Empowerment Day
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your Little meet with their Guidance/ College Counselor
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finals/ Regents Exams • BBBS of NYC Academic Recognition Ceremony • High School graduation • Last Day of School
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Begins • Summer Youth Employment Program
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Ends • Get ready for college

Don't let your Little slack just because they're almost at the finish line. Motivate them to stay focused!

Celebrate graduation with your Little.

Some Seniors may need to take Summer school classes.

If your Little is interested in getting their working papers for summer employment, they need their birth certificate, a physical, and documents signed by a school official.

Did you know?
Over the summer, students can lose over 2/3 of what they learned over the year. That's why summer programs are valuable. Go for Honors!

REFERENCE LETTER

During their junior and senior year, students will be responsible for finding recommendations for their college applications. The recommenders can be a teacher, a mentor, a guidance counselor, or a club leader.

In some cases, parents and Bigs can fill out a portion of the reference letter and hand it to those writing the recommendations for a better picture of the student. The following are sample questions parents and Bigs can answer and submit to their child's/Little's recommender.

NAME OF STUDENT _____

1. Please list **5 adjectives** you would use to describe your child and tell why you have chosen each. Avoid words like: pretty, handsome, etc. Use words that best describe your child's most outstanding attributes (i.e., diligent, serious, committed, etc.)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____

2. Family Background (number of family members in home/ outside home, relocations, occupations, siblings in college, medical conditions, unusual achievements, etc.)

3. List the most positive behavioral or personal characteristics that have been developing in your child over the years.

4. Describe your child's approach to academics. Academic strengths? Academic challenges?

5. Examples of how your child had dealt with adversity or hardship.

6. What do you consider to be the outstanding accomplishment of your child during the past four years?

7. Activities or honors your child might have received outside of school (church, community agency, summer study program, etc.)

8. What do you consider to be your child's outstanding personality traits? What does your child/student enjoy most about life?

9. Describe the most important non-academic interest/passion of your child and how he/she actually engages in it.

10. Career interest and/or college major your child has expressed an interest in.

11. Please relate any anecdote, incident, or story, which captures the spirit of your child. Please make it a recent one.

Summer Opportunities

Help your Little avoid falling behind during the summer months:

- **Questbridge Enrichment Program:** QuestBridge is a powerful platform bridging the nation's brightest, under-served youth to leading institutions of higher education and other enrichment opportunities. QuestBridge provides scholarships to select summer programs at selective colleges through the College Prep Scholarship program. For more information visit www.questbridge.com
- **Summer Youth Employment Program:** Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides New York City youth with paid summer employment for up to six weeks in July and August. SYEP has a lottery system that your Little can take advantage of to gain summer employment. It is advised that Littles apply in advance and visit local centers listed as being SYEP sites. A personal visit and conversation can make a difference in getting through the lottery. See: www.nyc.gov/html/dycd
- **Take a College Test Prep Course:** By beginning to expose Littles to these exams early-on, they will be more prepared for the exam come time during junior year.
- Apply for a summer course at Columbia, NYU, Brown, Cornell, etc. These courses can be found on their individual websites. These programs are perfect for those who want a glimpse into what college life and work is like.
- Think College Now and College Now (Programs offered by the City University of New York and Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC)
- **Cornerstone Program:** Cornerstone Programs provide engaging, high-quality, year-round programs for adults and young people. Programs are located at 94 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Community Centers throughout the five boroughs. Cornerstone youth programs are designed to help participants acquire the skills and attitudes they need to graduate from high school, succeed in their chosen career, and give back to the community. For more information visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/home/home.shtml>.
- **Beacon Youth Program:** Beacon programs are school-based community centers serving children age 6 and older and adults. There are currently 80 Beacons located throughout the five boroughs of New York City, operating in the afternoons and evenings, on weekends, during school holidays and vacation periods, including the summer. Beacon youth programs are designed to help participants acquire the skills and attitudes they need to graduate from high school, succeed in their chosen career, and give back to the community.







**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City**

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