**COLLEGE FLOW CHART**

**EXPOSURE & EXPLORATION**

**EXPOSURE TO POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS BEGINS IN 9TH GRADE:**
- Attend college peer group/workshop
- Explore colleges online with Coach or College Specialist/ Say YES Guidance Counselor
- Attend a college fair
- Visit colleges
- Discuss college experience with current/former students
- Discuss college options with parents or other significant adults

**PREPARATION & PLANNING**

**COACHES AND /OR COLLEGE SPECIALISTS SHOULD:**
- Review transcript and progress toward high school graduation
- Discuss 2-Year and 4-Year college pathways
- Help student take the PSAT/SAT or ACT
- Connect student to a tutor, if needed
- Review financial resources available to foster youth and a typical college budget with the student
- Discuss out of state and private college options, if appropriate
- Obtain a certificate of residence (if attending a community college outside the county you're from)

**APPLICATION & SELECTION: COLLEGE ADVISING PHILOSOPHY**

- **2 OR 4 YEAR COLLEGES?**
  - Students with GPAs in or above the 75-80 range should consider 4-YEAR COLLEGES
  - Other factors to discuss include: LOCATION, MAJORS, and if the student is AGING OUT*

**2-YEAR COLLEGE APPLICANTS**

- Apply to at least 3 CUNY schools that are easy to travel to and have majors that interest the student
- Consider applying to Empire State College

**4-YEAR COLLEGE APPLICANTS:**

- Apply to a range of SUNY schools, as well as CUNY schools if interested in attending college in NYC schools
- Apply to Opportunity Programs
- Encourage students to apply to schools where they can graduate debt-free. These include in-state public schools (CUNY and SUNY) and private schools that meet 100% of financial need (like NYU and Columbia). Students should try to avoid out-of-state public schools and private schools with limited financial aid, as these can be extremely expensive.

**COLLEGE SELECTION:**

- Review ACCEPTANCE LETTERS with Coach or College Specialist, Guidance Counselor, and parent

**FINANCIAL AID & FUNDING**

- Federal PELL Grant (using the FAFSA form)
- NYS TAP Grant (Tuition Assistance Program)
- ETV (Education & Training Vouchers)
- FYCSI (Foster Youth College Success Initiative)
- The nsoro Foundation Scholarship
- Say Yes Buffalo

**OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

- EOP (2-Year) & HEOP (4-Year)

**REMEDIAL PROGRAMS**

- Students whose GPAs or Regents exam scores are not high enough to place out of remedial courses may need to take a placement test before enrolling in college. It can be a good idea to retake Regents exams to help place out of remedials without needing a placement test. If you need a placement test, make sure you schedule it well before the start of classes!

**SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS IN CARE**

**COLLEGE PERSISTENCE**

THE COACH PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN HELPING STUDENTS PERSIST IN COLLEGE, FROM ENROLLMENT TO GRADUATION:

**PREPARING FOR 1ST SEMESTER**

- Attend orientation and visit college
- Complete mandated summer prep courses
- Check in the day before classes begin
- Ensure student has food, transportation, and basic living expenses for first month in college

**DURING THE SEMESTER**

- Check in after the first day to debrief, and after the first week
- Help student buy books, if needed
- Ensure student understands how to use online college systems and the consequences of class attendance policies
- Walk through syllabi & put due dates in calendar
- Check in on progress bi-weekly
- Check in during critical junctions: before withdrawal deadline and around midterms/finals

**AFTER EACH SEMESTER**

- Submit grades to all ETV and/or scholarship providers
- Check student account for holds and balances and ensure that financial aid was received. Work with student to apply for emergency funds if needed.
- Ensure enrollment in proper courses

*Let's get ready for college!