Getting Started

1. Your High School Guidance Counselor is a great resource.

2. College for All Texans
   http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/
   Aimed at inspiring the next generations of Texans on the path to college and career education. This site also provides college planning and financial aid information.

3. Mapping Your Future
   http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/
   Information about college planning, career options and financial strategies

4. Texas OnCourse
   https://texasoncourse.org/
   Texas' definitive source for college and career planning, this comprehensive site helps students and families begin preparing for the future. Specific modules are based on grade levels, including junior high, early high school and late high school.

General

1. Checklists for Academic and Financial Preparation
   https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists
   From the Federal Student Aid website, this page provides checklists with the steps you can take to help your child’s chances of getting into—and being able to afford—the school of choice.

2. KnowHow2Go.org
   http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/
   Many useful well-organized links from the American Council on Education. Designed to encourage middle and high school students to strive for college.
3. Texas Reality Check  
https://texasrealitycheck.com/  
From the Labor Market & Career Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission, this site offers Lifestyle and Occupation Calculators that show living expenses and the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for them.

4. Transitioning to College  
http://libguides.library.kent.edu/content.php?pid=340234&sid=2781755  
This Kent State University guide provides information on how college is different from high school. A focus of the site is college libraries as an academic support service, college-level research expectations and the research process.

5. Transfer 101  
http://transfer101.org/  
Guide for transferring from community college to a four-year university in Texas.

College Information

1. ACT College Testing  
http://www.actstudent.org/  
The ACT test measures what has been learned in high school to determine academic readiness for college.

2. College Board (SAT)  
http://www.collegeboard.com  
Information on colleges across the country, preparing for and taking the SAT and paying for college.

3. College Scorecard, U.S. Department of Education  
https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/  
Data on average annual cost, graduation rate and salary with filters to help you select a college.

https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges  
U.S. News provides nearly 50 different types of numerical rankings and lists to help students in their college search.
5. Adventures in Education  
http://www.aie.org  
Useful tools for career, college and financial exploration. Includes videos in English and Spanish on the FAFSA and the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).

Financial Aid/Scholarship Information

1. Apply for the Legacy Scholarship if you have been a patient of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children! Visit this link for guidelines and application information:  
http://www.tsrhc.org/legacy-scholarship-program

2. FastWeb  
http://www.fastweb.com  
Students create a profile to match with appropriate scholarship opportunities.

3. Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education  
https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/  
Excellent checklists on the entire process of applying for college, finding loans and paying loans.

4. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/  
Plan to fill out this application so colleges will be able to determine the types of aid for which you are eligible. It requires income tax data, which can be downloaded into the form around October. The first step is for parents AND students to apply for an FSA ID because that will be used to electronically sign.

5. How College Financial Aid Works  
How to use college financial aid from scholarships to work/study jobs to student loans that will help pay for college education.

6. Scholarships.com  
http://www.scholarships.com/  
Free college scholarship search service. Students create a personalized profile that is matched with a database of college scholarships, grants, fellowships and internships.
6. Texas Tuition Promise Fund  
   http://www.texastomorrowfunds.org/  
   Plan for the future with Texas’ prepaid college tuition program that allows you to pay for tomorrow’s college at today’s prices. Provides coverage for tuition and required fees, no matter how much they increase over time.

7. Trellis Company / Texas Guaranteed Student Loan (TG)  
   http://www.trelliscompany.org/  
   Trellis Company, formerly TG, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with the dual mission of helping student borrowers successfully repay their education loans and promoting access and success in higher education.

The purpose of this list is to suggest resources on a specific topic. The information you gain should not be used in place of medical advice or consultation with a health care professional. If you have questions, please reach out to your doctor or appropriate health care professional.

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