

# HELPING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRAD PREPARE FOR POST SECONDARY

As a youth leader, you are probably excited (and maybe anxious) for your soon-to-be high school graduates, especially if they're moving away from home to go to school in September.

The *Renegotiating Faith* report reminds us that a grad is 4x more likely to connect with a new faith community if the sending church helps make that connection.

This resource is a quick-glance review of how you can be supporting your high school graduates as they move from secondary to post-secondary studies.

While we have some possible conversation subjects listed below, feel free to use some starter questions at [transition101.ca/top5](http://transition101.ca/top5). You can also find other resources at [transition101.ca/resources](http://transition101.ca/resources).

## MONTHLY CHECK-IN IDEAS:

OCT	<input type="checkbox"/> Does the grad have a mentor? If not, who could be a suitable choice?	
NOV	<input type="checkbox"/> Has your grad applied for college or university? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Ontario college application deadline: <b>February 1, 2022</b></li> <li>▸ Ontario university application deadline: <b>January 13, 2022</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Has your grad identified other individuals who can help them prepare in different ways (e.g. financially, spiritually, mentally, academically) in the coming months?  <input type="checkbox"/> Have they researched where they plan to live (if they're moving away)? Residence / Off-Campus / Staying at Home?
DEC	<input type="checkbox"/> For students with exams this month, encourage and support them as these marks may be crucial in their admissions.  <input type="checkbox"/> What scholarships is your grad researching and/or applying to? Some possibilities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School (both high school and prospective campus) scholarships</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Scholarships in different workplaces (including parents' workplaces), organizations, etc.</li> <li>3. <a href="http://Grantme.ca">Grantme.ca</a></li> <li>4. <a href="http://cboqyouth.ca/scholarship">cboqyouth.ca/scholarship</a></li> </ol> <input type="checkbox"/> Who has your grad asked to pray for them?
JAN	<input type="checkbox"/> For students with exams this month, encourage and support them as these marks will be considered for possible early acceptance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore what they're excited about and/or worried about as they anticipate their undergraduate studies.
FEB	<input type="checkbox"/> What possible obstacles does your grad anticipate in this last half of school?	<input type="checkbox"/> How is your grad looking to balance maintaining friends/family back at home vs making new connections at college/university?

## MAR

- Has your grad visited, or are they planning to visit, their prospective campuses, whether in-person or online? (If not, and if circumstances allow, go with them to visit.)
- Do you know any contacts either in a campus group or church nearby their campus?
  - If so, have you made that introduction between your contact and your grad?
  - If not, research that information (e.g. via <http://t101.ca>).

## APR

- Review with your grad what outstanding tasks remain between now and August. (If they're not sure, now's the time to identify those.)
- Assuming they begin receiving letters of acceptance, help your grad evaluate their criteria in finalizing a school.
  - Help them determine what alternative steps need to be planned in case no schools send letters of acceptance. (One possibility is with [cboqyouth.ca/gapyear](http://cboqyouth.ca/gapyear))

## MAY

- Determine what other questions your grad has as they move toward graduation and beyond. Who could they discuss those with?
- Help them identify what other supports they'll need preparing for school, including in areas of spiritual formation, mental health, academic support, financial planning, physical wellness, etc.

## JUN

- Have a "commissioning" church service or youth ministry celebration.
- Invite grads to express their appreciation/gratitude to those who have impacted them to this point. (e.g. family, relatives, teachers, etc.)

## JUL

- Help them identify areas of closure with the completion of high school.

## AUG

- Have your grad/frosh review their preparation checklist to ensure all final details are settled.
- Do they have a contact person at their destination (e.g. with a church, campus group, etc.)? If not, suggest they connect via <http://t101.ca>.
- Have a group of church members pray regularly for the frosh.

## SEP

- Check in to find out how whether they're settled into their new homes.
- Has each one connected with a new faith community?

## OCT

- Have 1-2 adults send a care package (e.g. with appropriate treats, encouragement cards, etc.) to each of your frosh.