



## Supporting Our Teens in Choosing Post-Secondary Pathways

Our teens will be pursuing their next phase of learning soon. We may be wondering about the various pathways available and what role we can play in guiding them to decide on their options.

[Click here for a summary of the post-secondary options available.](#)

Here are **4 tips** on how we could explore the options together with our teens.



### 2. Encourage our teens to have a voice

Ask our teens about their thoughts and feelings on their strengths, choice of pathways and aspirations. Let them feel heard.

Discuss their aspirations and how we could support them. Make ourselves available for them to share their feelings, and assure them that we can support them.

#### Try these conversation starters

- **Which** subject(s) in school interest(s) you the most?
- **How** do you learn best in school?
- **What** are some of the occupations or areas that interest you? **Why** do you choose these occupations or areas?
- **How** do you want to make a difference in our community?

### 1. Take a step back from our own expectations

Every teen is unique. Encourage them to think through their options by recognising their own strengths, interests and learning styles.

Do offer advice but avoid pressuring our teens to qualify for a certain pathway based on our own expectations and experiences.



#### Consider these factors

- **Overall interest/passion** in the course
- **Cost** of post-secondary option
- **Distance** travelled between home and school
- **Duration** of study
- **Future** work opportunities related to interests/passions
- **Learning styles**
- **Scholarship** opportunities

### 3. It's okay to be uncertain (this applies to parents too)

Acknowledge that our teens may be facing pressure to do well to get to a particular course. We may be unsure ourselves which path our teens should take.

#### Seek support through these channels

- **Support circles**  
Encourage our teens to reach out to like-minded friends to motivate each other
- **Fellow parents**  
Reach out to our own social circles who have common concerns and attend parent seminars
- **Education and Career Guidance (ECG)**  
Encourage our teens to speak with an ECG counsellor at school for advice on post-secondary pathways

### 4. Knowledge is power

Learn more about the various post-secondary options together through the following resources.

- **For an overview** of MOE's multiple pathways, [click here](#)
- **For tips and advice** on how to support our teens as they discover and pursue their post-secondary pathways, [click here](#)
- **For key enhancements** being made to post-secondary pathways, [click here](#)

Stay open to the possible education and career pathways that are available and discuss these pathways with our teens.

Keep an eye out on Open House dates and encourage our teens to attend. We can even attend Open Houses together with them!



**As we advise our teens, value their thoughts and opinions so that they feel empowered and supported.**

*"I tried my best to **respect** my daughter's choice of polytechnic course by **being supportive**. She showed me that she **did her research** about the course and how it will **benefit her in future**. It helped me **feel confident** – **that's how she won me over**."*

– Parent of Year 3 Polytechnic student

### How else can we support our teens on their post-secondary decision?

Join us at our 'A World Beyond School' engagement series, specially organised for parents.

#### **MOE's Post-Secondary Transition Facebook Live – Wednesday 19 April, 8:00pm-9:00pm**

Hear from an ECG counsellor, a parent, and two youths as they share and answer questions on the various options and key considerations when choosing a post-secondary pathway.

#### **Journeying with Our Teens in their ECG Journey – Tuesday 16 May, 7:30pm -8:30pm**

As our teens journey into a world beyond school, ECG Counsellors, school, and parents play a critical role in providing meaningful experiences for them.

Learn with us through a conversation with an ECG Counsellor, a parent, and youth, on how parents can partner schools to develop competencies, adaptability and resilience for our teens' journeys ahead.



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