**Life After High School**

**Which Path is Right for You???**

**Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ **Right to College:** This path is best for the student who exhibits many of the attributes of college readiness. This student and his/her family feels that the student is capable of handling a full college course load while navigating the transition into independent living.

\_\_\_**Scaffolded College Track:** This path is best for the student who has a strong drive and desire to go to college, but may not feel quite ready to balance both course work and independent living demands. The scaffolded college track can take many forms. Just a few are listed here.

**Form 1:** The student begins this track by taking a full course load, but choosing a local college and commuting from home the first semester. As the student’s comfort level grows he/she attempts to live on campus the following semester/year.

**Form 2:** The student commutes from home to a local college, taking only a part-time course load or a mix of on-campus and online courses. The student slowly adds more classes each semester, while also focusing on joining a club in order to become a more included member of the college community. As the student feels more and more comfortable, a full course load and living on campus can be explored.

**Form 3:** If a student has dreams of attending a school far away, but is not yet ready for that step, the student may try a year at a local college then transfer.

**Form 4:** If a student is almost ready to go **Right to College**, but is feeling high levels of anxiety, the student can plan visit weekends with friends or engage in one of the many pre-college summer programs offered by local colleges. I recommend this occurs in the summer between junior and senior year.

**Form 5:** The student enrolls full time in a college which offers extra support services, such as Curry College’s PAL program.

\_\_\_**Gap Year/ Volunteer Year:** Some students may not feel quite ready to go off right to school, or may be undecided about where they want to go/what they want to do. These students may benefit from a Gap Year. A Gap Year can be beneficial for students who would like to hone their independent living skills, build self-confidence, or ease their transition into college life. There are many Gap Year opportunities that can be explored on an individual basis. You can find information about these at [www.neaguidance.weebly.com](http://www.neaguidance.weebly.com)

\_\_\_**Right to Work**: Although our mission is to ensure that all students at NEA have the opportunity to attend college via the college planning process, the fact remains that not every student wants to. These students will still be expected to go through the college planning process to ensure the opportunity is there, but we will also work with them to assist them in meeting their post-secondary goals.

\_\_\_**Trade School:** Trade schools are an often overlooked option in the college process. If your student enjoys working and learning with his/her hands then this may be the option for him or her. Likewise, if your student is interested in going into the field of civil service (such as a police officer or fire fighter) than trade schools can offer them an additional source of income. There are a variety of trade school and apprentice opportunities available which can be researched on an individual basis.

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**Explanation:** In the space below or on a separate sheet/typed please explain why you feel this path is right for you. Give as much detail as possible.