



METS NEWS

Parent Edition

February 1999, Volume 5, Issue 1

Helping Kids To Succeed

by David M. Megquier, Director

We now have an answer to a question that has puzzled parents and youth workers for a long time; why some young people have a hard time growing up, sometimes exhibiting risky and destructive behaviors, while others seem to breeze through their teen years and grow up as contributing members of society.

The Search Institute, a group that does practical research benefiting children and youth, has identified 40 concrete positive experiences that they call “developmental assets” that have tremendous influence on the lives of young people. Their research shows that these assets help young people make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring, and responsible. The more assets a young person has, says the Search Institute, the less likely s/he is to engage in risky behavior; the fewer assets s/he has, the more likely s/he is to do so.

Search Institute research found that the average young person surveyed experiences only 18 of the 40 assets. Ideally, they say, all youth should experience at least 31 of the 40 assets.

The parents and family are very important in providing these building blocks for healthy development. Schools, Scouting, and the Talent Search Program also have important roles.

Search Institute surveyed almost 100,000 youths in grades 6 to 12 in 213 towns and cities throughout the United States.

The Maine Educational Talent Search (METS) program offers your child the opportunity to experience twenty of these developmental areas. The most important developmental asset is the one you give them at home, family support. This publication is dedicated to enhancing the dialog between you and the METS project and hopefully forging a partnership in helping your child. A goal that we share is to help bridge your child’s interest and abilities with a bright future through education. If along the journey you can identify methods that the METS team can assist in that process, please do not hesitate to call 1-800-540-0493 to leave one of us a message. Good luck in this New Year, I look forward to hearing from you.

40 Developmental Assets

1. Family support
2. Positive family communication
3. Other adult relationships
4. Caring neighborhood
5. Caring school climate
6. Parent involvement in schooling
7. Community values youth
8. Youth serve as resources
9. Youth give service to others
10. Young person feels safe
11. Family boundaries
12. School boundaries
13. Neighborhood boundaries
14. Adult role models
15. Positive peer influence
16. High expectations
17. Constructive creative activities
18. Youth Programs
19. Religious community
20. Time at home
21. Achievement motivation
22. School engagement
23. Homework
24. Bonding to school
25. Reading for pleasure
26. Caring
27. Equality and social justice
28. Integrity
29. Honesty
30. Responsibility
31. Restraint
32. Planning and decision making
33. Interpersonal competence
34. Cultural competence
35. Resistance skills
36. Peaceful conflict resolution
37. Personal power
38. Self-esteem
39. Sense of purpose
40. Positive view of personal future



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Do College Students Need A Computer?

by Rebecca Salsbury, Technology Coordinator

Should students have a computer to use at college? What kind of computer should we purchase? There's no single correct answer, but here are some considerations that can help you answer the question for yourself!

What program of study will the student enter? Some academic programs may require more intense use of a computer, such as engineering studies.

What assignments and projects will be required? Speak with an advisor and professors, and some current students in the program. A beginning student will have different requirements than those further along in their program.

What computing resources are available at the college? Visit the school to check out the availability of computer labs and classrooms that you can use. Find out if the labs are accessible during the evenings and weekends, or if long lines form in which you'll be required to wait!

How much will it cost? Will your financial aid award help pay for a computer? Don't forget that you'll need software and other peripherals, such as a printer.

Can you purchase through the college? Many larger campuses have their own computer stores which offer better computers and software, and better prices.

Will it be compatible? Try to buy a computer and software that is compatible with the requirements at the school.

When in doubt, wait, but not forever! You might be wise to try out a semester of school, and then decide to purchase a computer, once you have established a need for one.

Buying a computer is much like buying a new car: it's a lot of money, but it can offer a great deal of practicality! You need to fully explore your options, decide what you need, take it for a test drive, and create a plan for financing this expense.

The Maine Educational Talent Search Program is one of over 300 Talent Search Programs located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Operating in the State of Maine since 1977, the METS program will serve approximately 1,050 individuals in their educational and career-planning endeavors during 1999. You may leave a message for METS project staff at 1-800-540-0493.

Talent Search Programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant award for 1999-2000 is \$401,153. The Department of Education is also the funding source for Educational Opportunity Centers, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and McNair Scholars Programs. These TRIO programs all target low-income, first-generation college youth and adults.

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