



**PROJECT LIFE**

Creating lifelong connections for youth.

*A partnership with and funded by VDSS.*

# Education

## **Educational Options**

Youth will understand their learning style and educational options.  
Youth will also understand where they see themselves educationally in  
life and the steps they need to take to get there.

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## Educational Options

<b>Age Range</b>	14 – 18, or students working towards a high school diploma or GED
<b>Skill Focus</b>	Youth will understand their learning style and educational options.
<b>Group Size</b>	2+
<b>Time Required</b>	60 minutes
<b>Materials Needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Learning Styles Quiz Handout</b></li> <li>- Container (box or bag)</li> <li>- <b>Casey Life Skills Learning Levels Handout</b></li> <li>- <b>Educational Options Statements</b></li> <li>- <b>Dream It, Plan It, Do It Worksheet</b></li> <li>- <b>ETV Fact Sheet</b> (for youth in foster care only)</li> <li>- Flip chart/whiteboard and markers</li> </ul>
<b>Adapted From</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learning Styles Quiz: <a href="http://members.shaw.ca/mdde615/lrnstylsquiz2.htm">http://members.shaw.ca/mdde615/lrnstylsquiz2.htm</a></li> <li>- Levels of learning and learning styles: <a href="http://www.casey.org/cls/project/LearningLevels.pdf">http://www.casey.org/cls/project/LearningLevels.pdf</a></li> <li>- Dream It, Plan It, Do It worksheet <a href="http://www.vaview.vt.edu/68/reality-check/all-about-you">http://www.vaview.vt.edu/68/reality-check/all-about-you</a></li> </ul>

### Leader's Notes:

<b>What is my Learning Style?</b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>What are my Educational Options?</b>	<b>20 minutes</b>
<b>Educational Goals</b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>ETV Fact Sheet</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>
<b>Final Thoughts</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>

## What is my Learning Style? (15 minutes)

Have youth complete the *Learning Style Quiz*.

- After the youth complete the quiz, explain what the results mean:
  - **Visual Learners** – These young people like to see things. Learning materials such as flip charts, videos, pictures and handouts are helpful. They often draw graphs or pictures to explain ideas or concepts.
  - **Auditory Learners** – These young people like to hear and talk about things and find that small group discussions, music, and lecture-type presentations promote learning. They often like to talk through homework assignments or tasks, or create songs to remember things like spelling words.
  - **Kinesthetic or Tactile Learners** – These young people like to feel things and prefer “hands-on” activities, simulations, and games that involve movement. They often like to trace the shape of things or build models of things being studied. These youth enjoy moving as they learn.
- Go around and ask youth to share what they came up with for their learning style.
- Using a flip chart and markers, have youth brainstorm different teaching methods that help them learn the best based on their learning style.

Hand out the *Casey Life Skills Learning Levels* document.

- You now know the best way you learn how to do something. Ask the group: How can knowing your learning style be helpful?
- Talking Points:
  - You may need to try different skills in school or at home to be able to better understand a concept or skill.
  - You can have a conversation with your teacher/ parent/counselor about your learning style and how they can help you learn new skills the best.

## What are my Educational Options? (20 minutes)

Directions:

- Print out the ***Educational Options Statements*** and cut them so that there is one statement listed on each piece of paper.
- On a flip chart of whiteboard, write the following words that will serve as choices for the youth to choose from.
  - GED
  - Vocational/trade school
  - Community college
  - 4-year college or university
  - Military
- Put all the statements in a box/bag, and then have youth draw out one statement at a time and read aloud.
- The youth that drew the paper can guess which of the choices the statement describes.  
*Note: Some questions will be true or false rather than choosing an option listed above.*

Below is the answer key for the leader to utilize during the activity.

***Statement:*** This is a multi-hour exam designed to test your knowledge of math, science, writing, reading and social studies. You must pass each of the above subjects with a 60 percent or above.

*Answer:* GED

<http://www.educationbug.org/a/the-facts-about-getting-a-ged.html>

***Statement:*** Some colleges accept a GED and some do not. True or False?

*Answer:* The short answer is maybe. Most colleges will accept a GED in lieu of a high school diploma, with community colleges almost always accepting GED scores. However they do look at it as a lower form of diploma and it should be combined with good references and tests scores in order to ensure college acceptance. This is similar with employers, **many will accept a GED as a substitute**, but again, view it lower than a high school diploma.

<http://www.educationbug.org/a/the-facts-about-getting-a-ged.html>

***Statement:*** To receive a Bachelor's degree, you would attend this type of school.

*Answer:* 4 year college or university

***Statement:*** I can earn an Associate's degree at this type of school.

*Answer:* Community college

**Statement: There are public and private colleges and universities. True or False.**

*Answer:* True. Public colleges are those that are largely supported by state funds. If you attend a public institution in your own state, you will get a break on tuitions costs, and—as a state resident—it's usually easier for you be admitted, as well. However, if you attend a public college in ANOTHER state, you will probably not get those benefits (though some state institutions do have reciprocal agreements with other nearby states.)

Private colleges, on the other hand, are supported by tuition, endowment, and donations from alumni and friends. Usually they are more expensive than public colleges, but it does depend on the particular school. Also, private colleges often offer the best financial aid. While attending a private school is reputed to translate into less red tape and more personal attention than you'll find at the public counterparts, it's important to look carefully at each individual college and to separate rumor from reality.

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/dean/archives/000294.htm>

**Statement: The average cost of this type of school is \$21,447 - \$42,224 each year.**

*Answer:* 4 year college or university

In its most recent survey of college pricing, the College Board reports that a "moderate" college budget for an in-state public college for the 2011–2012 academic year averaged \$21,447. A moderate budget at a private college averaged \$42,224.

[http://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content\\_payarticle\\_tmpl.jhtml?articleId=10064](http://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_payarticle_tmpl.jhtml?articleId=10064)

**Statement: This type of school offers a variety of certificate programs such as welding, cosmetology, and culinary arts.**

*Answer:* Vocational/trade school

**Statement: All schools are accredited. True or False**

*Answer:* False. Accreditation is a process of validation in which colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning are evaluated. Colleges that have been through the accreditation process are more likely to offer degrees that employers and recruiters recognize. Companies want to know that you have a quality education and that you will have something to bring to the table when you join their team. Not all schools need accreditation. Some schools offer specialty training programs in technical and art fields that don't fall under the traditional process of accreditation.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro13.shtm>

<http://www.50states.com/college-resources/accreditation.htm>

**Statement: This post-secondary option includes the Army, Navy, Marines Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.**

*Answer:* Military

<http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/generalinfo/a/military101.htm>

**Statement: All of these options except for one allow me to stay in foster care. Which one does not?**

*Answer:* Military

**Statement: All schools offer financial aid. True or False**

*Answer:* Most colleges offer financial aid. Next to the federal government, colleges are the second-largest provider of financial aid. College financial aid most often comes in the form of grants, scholarships, and work-study programs. Grants and scholarships are preferred types of financial aid because they don't need to be repaid.

<http://www.360financialliteracy.org/Topics/Paying-for-Education/Financial-Aid/Do-colleges-offer-financial-aid>

**Statement: To attend these types of schools, you must pay tuition.**

*Answer:* Community college, 4 year college or university and vocational school.

(Follow up question: What does tuition cover? Answer: Tuition is the price colleges charge for classes. Students also pay other fees related to enrolling in and attending college, such as housing, meal plans, etc.)

## **Educational Goals (15 minutes)**

Have youth complete *Dream It, Plan It, Do It* worksheet.

After you have given youth time to complete the document, have them share what they came up with. Have participants share their dream job and what they need to do to get there. Spend some time discussing the importance of setting goals in order to achieve your dreams.

## **Education Training Vouchers (5 minutes)**

Hand out the *ETV Fact Sheet* and discuss how this resource can support youth as they attend a post-secondary educational institution. *Note: This resource only supports youth in foster care. If the workshop is presented to a group of youth who are not in foster care, the leader should skip this section.*

## **Final Thoughts (5 minutes)**

Ask youth if there are any questions about anything that was discussed today.