

▲ The Steppingstone Foundation  
Support Services Department

## Glossary of Resources for Steppingstone Scholars

### **Advising Services**

Every Scholar is paired with a staff member whose primary role is to support the Scholar and his/her family on the path to college. At a minimum, this involves regular points of contact and sharing grades. Advising is designed to complement guidance services already offered at school. If you wish to contact a Scholar's Advisor, please call 617-423-6300 and leave a message, including the Scholar's name, in the general mailbox.

### **SMASH (Saturday Mentoring and Study Hall)**

Offered every Saturday morning, SMASH is a two-hour study hall where Scholars can do independent work, work with other Scholars, or work with a volunteer one-on-one. Volunteers serve as subject-specific tutors and/or as academic mentors to Scholars. SMASH is followed by a one-hour social period with basketball, workshops, board games, and other fun activities to help Scholars build positive peer relationships.

### **Summer Engagement**

Steppingstone believes strongly in the importance of active and engaged summers. Advisors work closely with students to ensure that all Scholars are aware of high-quality, low-cost camps, programs and internships in the area. Steppingstone also offers Summer Opportunity Scholarships of up to \$2,000 for which Scholars may apply. This funding encourages participation in programs that will strengthen candidacy for competitive four-year colleges. We also select ten Scholars in grades 10 and 11 to work as paid Teaching Assistants at The Steppingstone Academy and College Success Academy summer sessions serving Scholars in grades 5 - 8.

### **Academic & Service Opportunities**

Steppingstone hosts two annual conferences in the fall and spring with sessions tailored to what students and families need to know at every grade level to be ready for college. Additionally, we offer special opportunities to meet emerging needs (e.g. Latin Study Group) or offer enrichment (e.g. Writers Workshop for middle school students). Scholars are also invited to participate in regular community service at local organizations such as Friday Night Supper and Cradles to Crayons.

### **College Tours**

Five times a year, Steppingstone offers college tours for high school students. At least two per year are in Boston; other recent locations include Connecticut, Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts. We also offer a four-day overnight college tour each August.

### **SAT Test Preparation**

Through a generous collaboration with Kaplan, we are able to offer significantly subsidized, high-quality SAT preparation for Scholars. They are asked to pay \$100 for a 12-session course.

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### **uAspire**

Through a partnership with uAspire (<http://www.uaspireusa.org>), all Scholars can access individualized college financial aid support. uAspire advisors provide help with paperwork as well as evaluating aid awards.

### **College Planning Meetings and Workshops**

From the summer before senior year through college entrance, Steppingstone Scholars and their families will participate in a series of three meetings to help them through college planning, financial aid planning, and transitioning to college. Additionally, Steppingstone provides workshops to help Scholars understand the many options and opportunities available throughout the college application and decision process.

### **College Advising**

During a Scholar's first two years in college, they will be assigned a Steppingstone Advisor. The Advisor works with the Scholars helping them map their academic future, including academic success and progress toward degree completion, financial sustainability, and professional readiness and opportunity.

### **College Visit and Scholarship Referrals**

Steppingstone Advisors work to match Scholars with opportunities from colleges, programs and scholarships. As an NPEA (National Partnership for Educational Access) member organization, Steppingstone also has the opportunity periodically to partner with other organizations, such as The Princeton Review, to offer college-readiness workshops and activities.

### **Immigration Legal Services**

Through a partnership with Ropes & Gray, a premier Boston law firm, we are able to provide Scholars FREE access to immigration consultation and advice.

### **Counseling Services**

Counselors work closely with Advisors to ensure that Scholars and families feel safe and supported throughout Support Services. Counselors are available for one-on-one counseling sessions and can make referrals to appropriate community resources and agencies. Counselors are also available for consultation with school guidance counselors and therapists.

For additional information about any of the services listed above, please do not hesitate to contact Angela Bouchard, Vice President of Programs, at: 617.423.6300 x 248 or [abouchard@tsf.org](mailto:abouchard@tsf.org).