

### **Considerations for Starting College AFTER the Age of 13**

*Your child may have the intellectual ability to handle higher level material, but is he really ready to attend college? Place an "X" next to each statement, which you can answer with a "yes".*

- Can your teen effectively handle and resist peer pressure?
- Can your teen responsibly respond to underage drinking and drug use?
- Can your teen respectfully decline a date from someone older, who may not be aware of his/her age?
- Can your teen navigate medical care and doctors' visits on his/her own? Does the college have a policy for providing medical care if your teen is under 16?
- Has your son's voice changed yet?
- Can your daughter handle menstruation, such as PMS-related mood swings and cramps, on her own?
- Is your teen prepared to no longer be the highest achiever or most knowledgeable student in class?
- Is your teen comfortable with other people knowing his/her age and level of acceleration? Will he/she be comfortable with the attention that will come if and when people discover how old he/she is, despite looking like a college student?
- Does your child have the organizational skills necessary to track assignments and meet deadlines without your assistance or oversight?
- Has your teen developed a sense of self that encompasses more than just his/her intelligence?
- Does your teen have non-academic interests that will help him/her relate to other college students and make friends?
- Does your teen initiate conversations and social interactions with age and/or intellectual peers?
- Does your teen look people in the eye when he/she speaks with them?
- Can your teen wake up on time and be fed and ready for class with no help?
- Can your teen be trusted to eat regular and nutritionally sound meals?
- Does your teen have good hygiene habits?
- Can your teen do his/her own laundry?
- Can your teen manage daily medications without reminders?
- Will there be any transportation issues that will need to be worked out – between home and campus; between dorm and class; for a part-time job and/or internship?
- Can you financially afford early college with minimal to no financial aid?

*If you answered "yes" to 12 or more of the above statements, early college is a viable educational opportunity worth exploring for your teenager. If, however, you found yourself negotiating, in your mind, how you could answer "yes" to certain questions, you may want to speak with an educational consultant for an outside opinion on early college readiness.*