College Plan Evaluation Checklist
Objective:
To help students and their families critically assess their current college plan, identify areas for improvement, and ensure alignment with personal, academic, and financial realities.

Student Name: _____Current Grade or Course: _____Parent/Guardian Name (if applicable): _____

Section 1: Personalization of the Plan

- **Self-Assessment:**
  - Have you identified your strengths, interests, and learning preferences?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____
- **College Fit:**
  - Do the colleges on your list match your academic profile and personal values?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____
- **Unique Path:**
  - Does your plan consider unique educational paths like gap years, community college, or specialized programs?

- Notes:
  _____
  _____

Section 2: Realistic Expectations

- **Rankings vs. Fit:**
  - Are you considering colleges based on fit rather than just rankings?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____
- **Outcome Realism:**
  - Have you researched the actual career outcomes of alumni from your target schools?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____
- **Personal Success Metrics:**
  - Are your success metrics for college aligned with your personal goals rather than societal expectations?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____

Section 3: Financial Oversight

- **Total Cost Understanding:**
  - Do you have a clear picture of the total cost of attendance for each school on your list?
  - Notes:
    _____
    _____
- **Financial Aid:**
  - Have you explored all possible scholarships, grants, and financial aid options?

- Notes:

  _____
  _____

- **Debt Analysis:**
  - Is there a plan to manage or minimize student debt?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

- **ROI Consideration:**
  - Have you considered the return on investment for each educational choice?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

Section 4: Career Alignment

- **Major Choice:**
  - Is your major choice based on passion, aptitude, and market demand?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

- **Career Exploration:**
  - Have you engaged in activities like internships or informational interviews to align your education with career goals?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

- **Market Awareness:**
  - Are you informed about job market trends relevant to your major?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

Section 5: Flexibility in Planning

- **Adaptable Strategy:**
  - Does your plan allow for changes in interest or unexpected life events?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____
- **Alternative Paths:**
  - Have you considered alternatives like vocational training, online education, or a different educational model?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____
- **Regular Review:**
  - Is there a schedule for reviewing and adjusting your plan annually or as needed?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____

Section 6: Communication and Collaboration

- **Counselor Engagement:**
  - Are you proactive in your communications with your high school counselor?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____
- **Family Goals:**
  - Have you and your family defined and agreed upon educational goals?
  - Notes:

    _____
    _____
- **Financial Transparency:**

- Have you had open discussions about what the family can afford for college?
- Notes: _____ _____

This checklist is designed to help you evaluate and refine your college plan to ensure it's robust, personalized, and aligned with your long-term goals. Use the notes section to document insights or changes you plan to make.

Next Steps:

- Review each section with your family or mentor.
- Make necessary adjustments based on your evaluation.
- Schedule periodic reviews to keep your plan dynamic and responsive to your evolving needs and circumstances.