



**LIFE AFTER HIGH
SCHOOL**

WHAT CAN I DO?

I know that college is not the right fit for me, what else can I do??

- You can start this process by asking yourself some questions
 - What do I know about the opportunities that are available to me?
 - What is important to me? What do I believe in?
 - Do I have a clear picture of my skills, talents, achievements, and special qualities?
 - Have I talked to my parents, counselor, and friends about my ideas?
 - Have I done my research?
 - Use Naviance to assess your skills and talents!

IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND ...

- Any decisions you make, you can change!!!
- Sort through all of your options first before you make any decisions
- Lean on friends, family, mentors, counselor, etc. for support
- Personal growth and career preparation can take place in a variety of settings

POPULAR ALTERNATIVES TO A COLLEGE EDUCATION

- Employment
- Military
- Trade Schools
- Gap Year

EMPLOYMENT

- Create a resume
- Make sure you have at least 2 references
- Start at an entry level position and grow within a company
- Internships or apprenticeships
 - Earn while you learn
 - Union positions- <http://phillylabor.com/union-directory-2/>
 - Real Estate
- www.careervillage.org
- Make a resume through your Naviance Student account

CONSIDERING A UNION?

- FTCHS Counselors have a binder with all unions along with information and contact information for each.
- The binder is located on the FTCHS website – counselor tab – alternatives to college – bottom of page
- Union's do require interested employees to take a test.
- Most require apprenticeships

MILITARY

- While in high school, you can
 - Talk to a recruiter
 - Take the ASVAB
 - Research military benefits
- Decide on Branch
 - Army
 - Navy
 - Marines
 - Coast Guard
 - Air Force
 - National Guard

TRADE/ TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

- Provide specific training for a variety of skilled careers
- Length of programs range from a few months to possibly 2 years
- Lincoln Tech, Orleans Tech, Thaddeus Stevens, Pennco Tech, Penn College (of Technology)
- Schools will help you with licenses and certifications and possibly with job placement

GAP YEAR

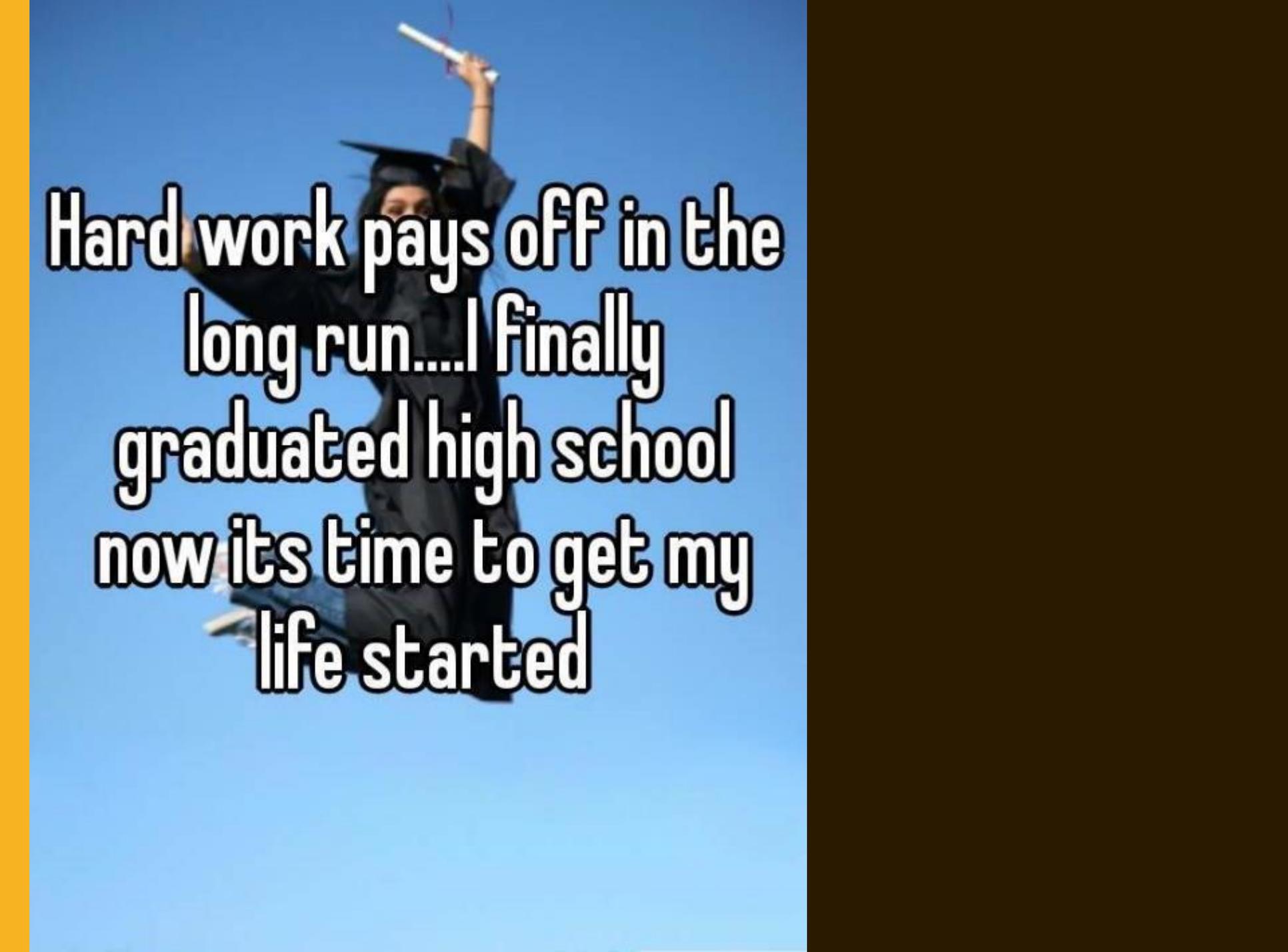
- When students take a year off between high school and postsecondary plans
- Volunteer
 - [City Year- https://www.cityyear.org/](https://www.cityyear.org/)
 - [Year Up-https://www.yearup.org/](https://www.yearup.org/)
 - [Ameri Corps- https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps](https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps)
 - [Peace Corps – https://www.peacecorps.gov/](https://www.peacecorps.gov/)
 - [Job Corps – https://philadelphia.jobcorps.gov/](https://philadelphia.jobcorps.gov/)
 - Other local organizations
 - <https://www.serve.phila.gov/>

OTHER OPTIONS

- Community College has a variety of options
 - Take classes in topics that you may be interested in
- Take online “adult learner” classes
- Firefighter, EMT, Paramedics
 - apply when recruitment posting are listed
 - Must be 18
- Philadelphia Police Academy
 - Must be 22
 - <https://www.phila.gov/services/working-jobs/find-a-job-or-internship/join-the-fire-department/>
 - <https://joinphillypd.com/>

REMEMBER..

- Make the best possible decision based on given information and circumstances
- Don't procrastinate
- Focus on what's in front of you
- Be open to a variety of options
- Trust your intuition
- Relax and clear your mind
- Let go of other people's negative judgements
- Practice making decisions
- Be realistic!

A photograph of a graduate in a black cap and gown, celebrating with arms raised against a clear blue sky. The graduate is holding a rolled-up diploma in their right hand. The image is overlaid with large, white, bold text with a black outline.

**Hard work pays off in the
long run....I finally
graduated high school
now its time to get my
life started**