

Six strategies to support students finishing school

Students will have complex, mixed feelings as they approach the end of their school life. They may be excited about their next steps, while also feeling anxious or overwhelmed. As a teacher, you can support your students to prepare for their first big career transition, whether they're planning to study, work or play.

1 Encourage reflection.



Devote some time to helping your students reflect on their last few years of school. Help them record their achievements in a portfolio or on their resume, to support their job-seeking efforts.

► [myfuture career article: Write strong achievements](#)

2 Help students understand their pathways.



The more students know about their next destination, the better. Help them understand how university or TAFE works, compared to school. Make them aware of the academic, career and wellbeing support services.

► [myfuture Career articles](#)

3 Support students into work.

A job will do more to support this transition than anything else. It will put money in the student's pocket and skills on their resume. Review student resumes and run mock-interviews.



► [myfuture's Job seeker resources](#)

4 Promote professional social media.

Finishing students will need to adopt new ways of using email and social media. Encourage them to set up a professional email address to use while job-hunting and to review their social media accounts and activity.



► [myfuture Career article: Clean up your digital footprint](#)

5 Support a gap year.



For some students, a gap year might be their best post-school plan. Help students review proactive gap year options. Some students might need your advice on how to talk to their parents about wanting to take a gap year.

► [The Guardian article: Considering a gap year?](#)

6 Look after students' wellbeing.



The end of school is likely to be your students' first big career transition. Many will feel anxious leaving the familiarity of school for an uncertain future. Be attentive to your students' emotional states and be there for them if they need a chat.

► [myfuture Insights report: The power of career conversations](#)