MANUFACTURING GEORGIA
POWERED BY GEORGIA MANUFACTURERS

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

THE CONVERSATION

The Kitchen Table Guide

You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to ask better questions.

- Ask, then listen.
- Plan on several short talks, not one big one.
- Nothing here is a one-way door.

1 Six questions to ask your child

1. **When do you lose track of time?**
   Listen for fixing, building, figuring things out.
2. **Would you rather sit, stand, or move all day?**
   Technician work is mostly on your feet.
3. **Do you like seeing results right away?**
   A machine starting back up is the daily reward.
4. **What problem did you solve that you were proud of?**
   Listen for patience and curiosity.
5. **How would you feel about getting paid while you learn?**
6. **Whose job do you know that you'd actually want?**

3 Four questions to ask any program

1. **Where do your graduates work?**
   Names, not percentages.
2. **Which employers help build or hire from this program?**
3. **What's the total cost, in writing?**
4. **What credential do I leave with, and does it count toward a degree later?**

Red flags: a guaranteed job, pressure to sign today, no employer names.

2 What they'll ask you

"Does it pay?"

$61,130
median, Georgia industrial machinery mechanics[1]

$78,070
median, electrical and electronic engineering technicians[1]

"Is anyone hiring?"

1,440
openings a year in Georgia[2]

20.2%
growth through 2034[2]

"Will I be stuck?"

No. Lead technician, planner, trainer, and manager come next.[3]

"How do I pay for it?"

The HOPE Career Grant covers **tuition** for 18 programs at 22 technical colleges. Fees and books aren't automatically covered.[4]

4 If they're leaning in and you're nervous

Name the worry. Then go see it together at a plant tour or open house, and ask a technician how they got in.

5 If they have no idea

That's normal. Take the 10-question fit check together, then try one small step: a tour, a job shadow, or work-based learning. Students 16 and older in grades 11 and 12 can apply through their school.[5]

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[1] BLS OEWS Georgia, May 2025 · [2] Projections Central, Georgia 2024 to 2034 · [3] National Reference Guide for Technician Careers · [4] TCSG, GAfutures · [5] Georgia Work-Based Learning