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 really good questions.

- Ask, then listen.
- Plan on several short talks, not one big one.
- Keep an open mind and a goal of learning everything you can about your child and opportunities in manufacturing.

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. **Did you know that there may be opportunities to get paid while you learn?**
   Talk to teachers and counselors about high school work-based learning opportunities.
6. **Do you know anyone with a job that really interests you?**
   Next step...set up a job shadow.

3 Four questions to ask about any program

1. **Where do your graduates work? (Company names, not percentages.)**
2. **Which employers help develop this program?**
3. **What's the total cost, in writing?**
4. **What credentials can students earn? Do certificates and diplomas lead into a degree?**

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

2 What they'll ask you

"Does it pay?"
Georgia industrial machinery mechanics earn a median **$61,130**; electrical and electronic engineering technicians, **$78,070**.[1]

"Is anyone hiring?"
About **1,440 openings a year** in Georgia, with **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 talk to a technician about how they prepared for the job, and why it was a good fit.

5 If they have no idea what they want to do

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]

Next Explore Careers · Skills & Training · Events at **manufacturinggeorgia.org**

[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