

Creating/Building a College Going Culture

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Here's a look into the FUTURE..



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- A shortage of 14 million college-educated workers by 2020.
 - Six out of ten employers in our economy depend a college degree.
 - Pathways to College Act : Increasing the number of low-income and first-generation students enrolling and succeeding in college by providing grants to high-need school districts to improve school counseling, build college cultures, and increase student access to postsecondary planning and information.

What was your educational journey?

- What high school preparation did you receive as a child?
- Were there any positive and/or negative conversations around college?
- Are you first generation?
- Were you responsible for funding your way?



How do we Improve College Access on a district level?

- Lower financial barriers
- Better academic preparation
- Better counseling availability
- Increased college information
- Provide more Parent Engagement



Lower Financial Barriers



- Unmet financial need is increasing, college costs are rising, student loan debt is mounting, and merit aid is increasing.
- 22% of low income but academically-qualified students don't attend college because of affordability concerns.
- Provide students with information about Federal and State funding.

Better Academic Preparation

- Best predictor of college enrollment and completion is the rigor of HS courses, especially math and science.
- Raising student achievement helps meet increasing demands for accountability
- Current P-12 accountability systems like exit exams and achievement tests are misaligned with college admissions requirements (PARCC/I-Ready)



High School Counseling

- District unable to provide resources devoted to college counseling
- Counselor-to-student ratio nationally is 1:450, and in the largest cities it averages 1:700.
- Most counselors are not trained in college or financial aid advising and may not have accurate and/or up-to-date information



Counselors' Greatest Impacts

- Organizing info & activities to support aspirations, preparation, & decision-making;
- Assisting parents in supporting aspirations, expectations, & motivation;
- Actively advising (not just disseminating information) results in increases in four-year college enrollments, especially for low-income, urban and rural students as well as students of color.



Basic Needs



- Adequate information, received early enough to complete the necessary prerequisites for college.
- Low-Socioeconomic students and students of color are the least likely to receive this info by 8th grade, in time to enroll in college prep high school classes.
- Clear accessible information about affordability.

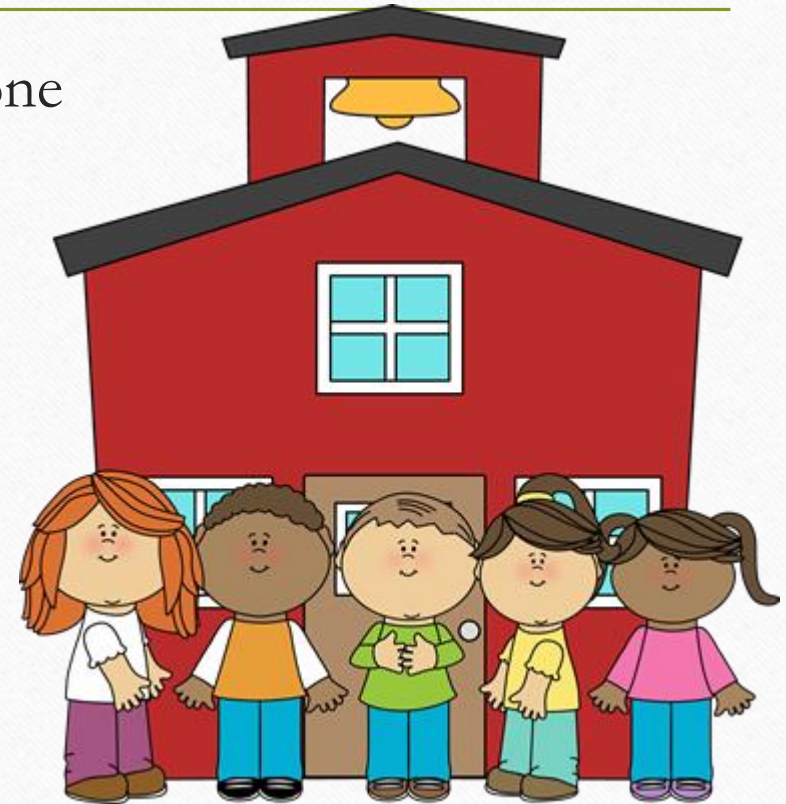
Families should *ALWAYS* be included

- Family encouragement stimulates students forming college plans.
- Family support and early college plans predict:
 - a. developing and maintaining college aspirations
 - b. sustaining motivation and academic achievements and actual college enrollment.



Creating a College Culture

- Changes school structure and culture for everyone
- Involves long-term, systemic change
- Involves *ALL* Stakeholders
- Requires full “buy in” and additional resources



College Culture Goal

All students are prepared for a full range of postsecondary options through structural, motivational, and experiential college preparatory opportunities.



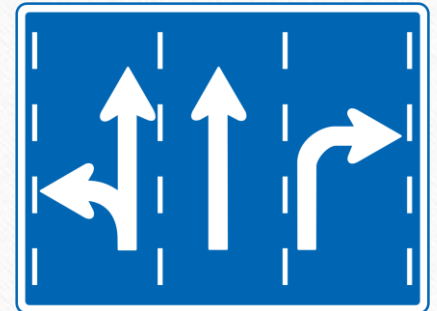


College Culture Objectives

- School leadership is committed to building a college culture
- All school personnel provide a consistent message to students that supports their want for a college preparatory K-12 experience
- All counselors are college counselors
- Counselors, teachers, and families are partners in preparing students for college

Principles of a College Culture

- College Talk
- Clear Expectations
- Information & Resources
- Comprehensive Counseling Model
- Testing & Curriculum
- Faculty Involvement
- Family Involvement
- College Partnerships
- Articulation



Are you having the College Talk

- Clear, ongoing communication about college, so that all students develop a college-going identity.
- Indicators:
 1. Newsletters, newspapers, posters
 2. “Your Educational Journey” campus-wide
 3. College Club for middle school students



Are your Expectations Clear?

Explicit goals of college preparation must be defined and communicated clearly, consistently, and in a variety of ways by families and all school personnel.

Tips:

- School mission statement
- Four-year plans for all students
- Frequent communication with students about their college options
- Ongoing opportunities to discuss college preparation, define goals

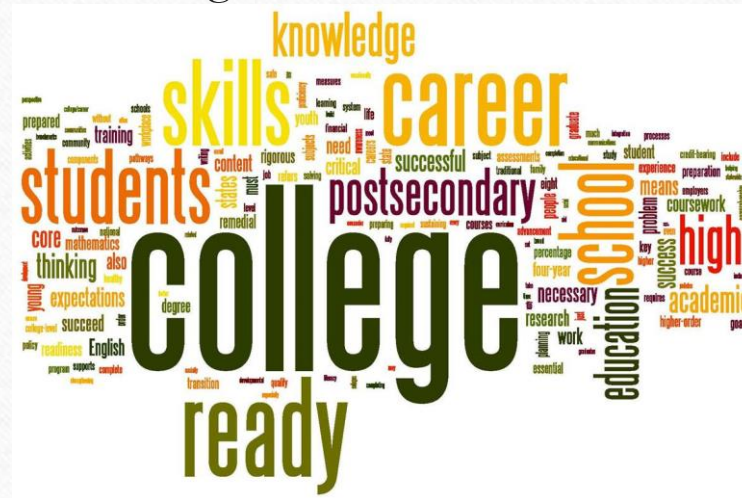


Information & Resources

Students must have access to up-to-date, comprehensive college information and schools must build college knowledge infrastructure.

Tips:

- College-related Newsletters
- PSAT/SAT/ACT materials
- Financial Aid materials
- College catalogs
- College choice guides
- Workshops on test prep, financial planning, and high school coursework planning.



Comprehensive Counseling Model

All counselors are college counselors and all student interactions with counselors are college advising opportunities.

Tips:

- All high school counselors attend state college conferences
- Counselors at all grade levels have ongoing collaboration
- Counselors distribute college information to all students, faculty, and staff



Testing & Curriculum

Students must be informed about necessary tests, must be given the opportunity to prepare for these tests, and testing fees must be taken into account.

Tips:

- PSAT given on school day to all 10th graders in a district is free
- Master schedules changed to make more college prep classes available
- Students learn organizational skills



Involve Faculty

Faculty must be active, informed partners with counselors, students, and families and professional development opportunities must be available.

Tips:

- Classroom decorations and “college corners”
- College Talk in class time
- Mathematics teachers work with PSAT-takers
- Teachers understand their roles in college prep
- Teachers visit counseling office



Family Involvement



Family members **must** have opportunities to gain college knowledge and understand their role.

Tips:

- College Fairs for students and their families
- Evening/weekend parent workshops to learn about college preparation, financial planning
- Parents supported in their belief that their children are “college material”

Create College Partnerships

Create links between K-12 schools and local colleges and universities that can lead to field trips, college fairs, and academic enrichment programs.

Tips:

- Students at all grade levels have visited local college campuses
- College dress days, door decoration contests, guest speakers
- Alumni Day



Next School year I will.....



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- Request college financial aid officers to speak at your schools.
 - Conduct more group sessions in lower grades about college access
 - Request undergraduates from local colleges to volunteer at your schools, preferably from service learning courses where you know they will have some training and support.

Contact Information

Website: www.spiredconsulting.com

Instagram: spiredconsulting

Twitter: spiredconsulting

Upcoming Events:

July 2019- Are you college ready? Seminar for 9th – 11th graders. Sign up online.

