

# Guide to Creating a College Going Culture

at the elementary and  
middle & high school level

Based on what you **believe**, what you **say**, what you **see**, what you **do**

*\*Adapted from Oregon Gear Up College Going Culture and Michigan College Access Network*

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# About this Guide

Creating a college-going culture means setting high expectations for ALL students and communicating that college is not a distant dream but rather the next step in their education. This can be done by providing students with the tools and encouragement they need to connect their actions now to the future. Immersing students in visual reminders, engaging in verbal interactions and activities that support exploring postsecondary opportunities and are aligned with college norms established by the school community are all important components of establishing a thriving college-going culture.

The K2C/Roadmap to College: Resources for Creating a College-Going Culture provides a myriad of ideas, activities, lessons, tools, and templates for the elementary and middle school levels.

This guide and accompanying website are informed and inspired by the 9 Principles of College-Going Culture (P. McDonough UCLA) as well as Oregon's Gear Up framework of developing a college-going culture based on what we **believe**, what we **see**, what we **say** and what we **do**. The K-12 College Going Toolkit from the Michigan College Access Network is the third key reference used in developing this guide. Drawing from these three central references along with materials developed by SFUSD Office of Counseling and Postsecondary Success, resources have been identified, organized and referenced for easy access and adaptability to any elementary and middle school environment. The resources are directly linked in the guide and via the Roadmap to College website.

## Roadmap to College Collaboration

The Roadmap to College is a collaboration between SFUSD, Office of Counseling and Postsecondary Success and the City and County of San Francisco, Office of Financial Empowerment Kindergarten to College program (K2C). As the K2C programs grows with our students into high school, there are more opportunities to incorporate financial awareness and literacy, which is a key theme in college-going culture. School have adopted Deposit Day events, encouraging students and families to save for college. The act of making a deposit is another reminder in taking steps towards going to college, which is part of the desired trajectory for all SFUSD students. In 2016, the Roadmap to College Elementary library and lesson cards were launched to all SFUSD K-8 and elementary schools. The resources to bolster college going culture are growing and expanded as the K2C program has reached into the secondary level. Our hope is that this guide is helpful in supporting school counselors and other staff in their efforts to infuse college going culture into their school sites.

## Sources and Additional Resources

[Oregon Gear Up -College Going Culture Toolkit](#)

[Michigan College Access Network- The K-12 College Going Culture Toolkit](#)

[Oregon Gear Up College & Career Day Toolkit](#)

[ACT & ACE College Career Awareness Activities for Elementary and Middle School Students](#)

[ACT & ACE Pre College Career Readiness Curriculum for Students & Families](#)

[Building Educational Success Through Creating a College Going Culture](#) (based on McDonough's 9 Principles)

[NOSCA Elementary School Counselor Guide: 8 Components of College and Career Readiness](#)

[NOSCA Middle School Counselor Guide: 8 Components of College and Career Readiness](#)

[UC Berkeley: Center for Educational Partnership](#)

[College Going Culture: Proposed Strategies and Activities](#)



# What is a College Going Culture?

UC Berkeley defines College-Going Culture as - “The environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in postsecondary education.” Establishing a college-going culture should start in kindergarten where the expectation of going to college is established for ALL students. It’s imperative that students hear a consistent message from the beginning and that they see themselves as “college material.”

## Benefits of Establishing a College Going Culture:

1. Students who decide to go to college early get there more often.
2. Families who have college information or resources are more likely to send their children to college.
3. Schools that are intentional about creating college-going culture send more students to college.
4. Low- and moderate-income children with a college savings account in their name (regardless of the amount) are 7 times more likely to enroll in college than children with no savings, and are 4 times more likely to graduate therefore it is key to promote the K2C program as part of the efforts to bolster a college-going-culture at the school site.

## Elements common to building a college-going culture:

- School leadership is committed to building a college-going culture
- All school personnel provide consistent messaging to students that supports their quest for a college preparatory K-12 experience.
- Teachers and families are partners in preparing students for college.

## *A college-going culture exists when the following elements are present on a school campus\*:*

- **College Talk** – clear communication about what it takes to get to college
- **Clear Expectations** – explicit, clearly defined goals communicated in ways that make them part of the culture of a school
- **Information and Resources** – students have access to information and resources related to college
- **Curriculum** – school makes a commitment to provide the instruction necessary for every student to be prepared to meet grade level standards, every year in every classroom
- **Teacher Involvement** – teachers integrate college information into regular classroom activities
- **Family Involvement** – family members have opportunities to gain knowledge about the college planning process (including how to financially prepare for college)
- **College Partnerships** – college related activities and academic enrichment programs raise awareness of aspirations towards college
- **Articulation** – a seamless experience where a college message is communicated from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade

## 9 Principles of a College Going Culture Resources

- 9 Principles of a College Going Culture examples
- 9 Principles of a College Going Culture template

*\* Adapted from 9 principles of College Going Culture/ Patricia McDonough, UCLA*

# What the Research Says...

School culture and climate directly affect student learning and engagement as well as college aspirations and preparation. A college-going culture sets high expectations for all students and provides them with the academic preparation and other tools to meet those expectations. Students benefit from ever-present reminders of college expectations in visual reminders, verbal interactions and activities dedicated to exploring postsecondary opportunities. All school staff, plus parents and students (and even the community) play a role in consistently echoing the expectation of education after high school.

**A school's culture is...**

- what you **believe** 
- what you **say** 
- what you **see** 
- & what you **do** 

**A college-going culture ...**

Sets high expectations for **ALL STUDENTS** and provides them with the academic preparation and other tools to meet those expectations.



What is your school's culture? What are the expectations for all students and staff? What are the conversations in the breakroom, the classrooms and the cafeteria? What do you see when you walk down the halls? What are the traditions at your school? What is celebrated? These are the kinds of questions that will help you and your staff begin to assess the culture of your school.

Educators, students and communities can set the tone by creating traditions that celebrate college acceptances and academics, providing visual reminders of college and career, and regularly talking about the expectation for education after high school. This toolkit will provide several easy, low-cost ways to highlight a college-going culture at both the elementary and middle school levels.



*\*Gear Up Oregon, 2012*

# What You Believe



## **BUILD STAFF BUY-IN**

A college-going culture starts with the expectations and attitudes of administrators, staff and teachers. Administrators should lead Staff Discussions to discuss current data on academic achievement, college enrollment and student, teacher and parent attitudes as well as the merits of postsecondary education and the importance of high expectations.

Ask staff:

“**What does college and career ready mean?** “ and discuss the various answers and how to achieve these outcomes.

## **CREATE A VISION & MISSION STATEMENT**

Vision/mission statements for schools and organizations serve as guiding principles for staff, students, parents and the community. In order to create a college-going culture, these stakeholders need a shared, expressed goal; a college mission statement should succinctly state the expectation of postsecondary education for all students as well as lay out an action plan with measurable goals.

Creating and adopting college vision/mission statements and action plan should be a collaborative, inclusive process that encourages buy-in of all stakeholders. This may involve educating administrators, staff, students and parents about the importance of higher education. In addition to a well-crafted mission statement, it may be helpful to have a slogan that sums up your intentions in a digestible, catchy phrase. Keep it short—like what you would see on a bumper sticker. You can always use Oregon GEAR UP’s: College. It’s not a dream, it’s a plan.

## **SFUSD COMMITMENT TO POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS**

SFUSD is committed to helping all students develop strong academic knowledge and skills, as well as a host of dispositions and behaviors, that increase their curiosity and engagement, activate their full potential for learning, and prepare them for life, work, and study beyond their secondary school years. While the pace and the path toward achieving these outcomes will vary among students and unfold along a set of learning progressions, the goal is for every SFUSD student to possess these capacities by the time they graduate.

[SFUSD GRADUATE PROFILE](#)



## **SFUSD VISION**

Every student who attends SFUSD schools will discover their spark, along with a strong sense of self and purpose. Each and every student will graduate from high school ready for college and career and equipped with the skills, capacities and dispositions outlined in SFUSD’s Graduate Profile.

## **WRITE MISSION STATEMENT WITH COLLEGE CAREER READINESS FOCUS**

A guide to crafting a mission statement with a basic structure and key questions to consider.

[How to Write a Mission Statement](#)



# What You Say (and Who Says It)

## LANGUAGE CHOICES

Talk regularly about the expectation of college with students and parents to reinforce the college mission statement. This message should come from everyone—administrators, teachers, staff, other students and the community.

### FROM SCHOOL

Language Choices: Pay attention to the little things, such as saying “When you go to college...” NOT “If you go to college...”

**Announcements**: Take advantage of a captive audience and share facts and information about college preparation one day a week.

Use our power point of images for digital bulletin boards as well.

**College Conversations**: Once a week, spend 5-10 minutes of dedicated time in Advisory or in

- a class to discuss students’ future plans and
- getting ready for college and career.

### FROM PARENTS

**Newsletters**: Send home monthly parent newsletters with conversation prompts.

**Workshops**: Offer workshops for parents and students that encourage conversations about postsecondary plans.

### From the Community

Invite people from the community to present on their careers to students. Think about local industry but also find folks that represent your own student demographic. Stories about overcoming personal challenges are captivating and inspiring to students.

### FROM PEERS

**Student Mentors**: Use high school students as mentors and tutors. Have high school students create a short presentation or activity for elementary or middle school students about high school or college.

**Alumni Panel**: Invite high school alumni who are now in college (as well as their parents!) to speak to current students and their parents at a college information night to share what they wish they would have known.

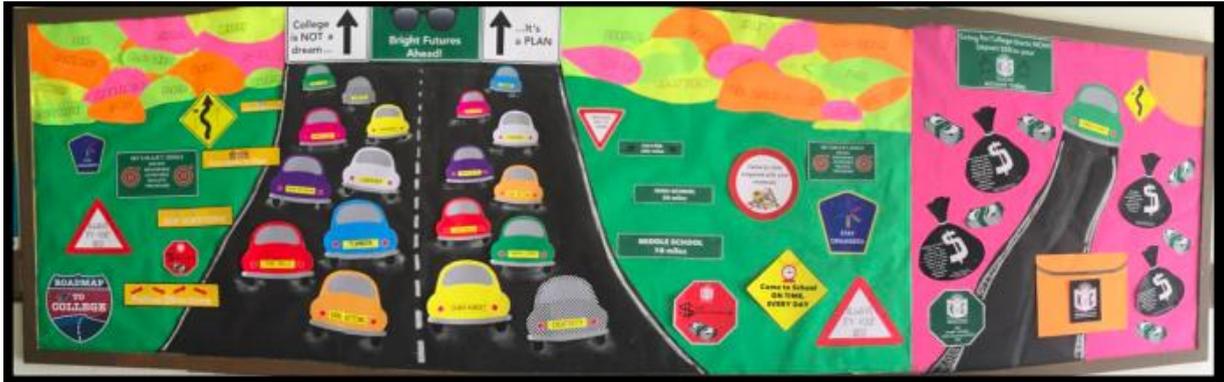
### **Alumni and Panel Toolkit**

Agendas, questions and handouts for an event featuring alumni who are current college students and their parents.

# What You See

Broadcast your college mission statement in halls and on walls. Think of it as advertising—but instead of selling toothpaste or potato chips, you’re selling postsecondary education.

SFUSD example of college career display, elementary “Roadmap to College”....



**State Map:** Put up a state map and label all of the community colleges, 4-year universities and trade Schools.

**Teacher Door Posters :** Display each teacher’s alma mater on their door. Education Journey

**College Door Competitions:** Turn it into a competition and get students and teachers excited about creating a college-going culture. Provide paper, scissors, college catalogs and other materials.

**Bulletin Boards:** Use school bulletin boards for a rotating display of college and career themes such as College of the Month, SAT Word of the Day, or Cool Careers.

**“Class Of....” Photos:** Take photos of students with their post-high school plans and display on a prominent wall.

CLASS OF 2034...



When I Grow Up, I Want to Be....



# What You Do

A college-going culture celebrates postsecondary education regularly and gives students the information and skills needed to succeed. Create school traditions and regular practices that encourage aspirations and highlight the college application

## **CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Decision Day:** Hold a ceremony or party for seniors with verifiable acceptance letters to college, the military or on-the-job training and post photos or Senior Certificates with their post-high school plans in a highly visible spot for students and parents to see.

**Academic awards:** Give trophies and awards to students and display them alongside (or in place of!) sports memorabilia.

**Graduation traditions:** Have high school graduates walk through the elementary schools in their caps and gowns.

## **MAKE IT PART OF CLASS**

**Integrate college planning into math and language arts curriculum:** Assign college/scholarship application essay questions in ELA class or cover college budgeting in math. See The College Board's suggestions (on page 9) for more ideas. **Integrate college practices into the classroom:** Align high school curriculum with college-level classes, encourage teachers to use syllabi. **Test preparation:** Dedicate several class periods to college entrance exam preparation; encourage all students to take the SAT or ACT.

A college-going culture celebrates postsecondary education regularly and gives students the information and skills needed to succeed. Create school traditions and regular practices that encourage aspirations and highlight the college application process.

## **SUPPORT THE COLLEGE PROCESS**

**Career and future planning:** Have all students research careers and educational requirements.

**College visits:** Create a series of college visits starting in middle school to introduce students to a variety of colleges.

### **COLLEGE VISIT TOOLKIT**

Plan a relevant and engaging field trip with our step-by-step guide and resources.

[oregongearup.org/resources/college-visits-toolkit](http://oregongearup.org/resources/college-visits-toolkit)

### **SFUSD CPSS**

[Middle School Friendly College Field Trip Templates](#)

### **IT'S A PLAN**

Monthly checklists for students and parents, with resources for educators to provide support.

[oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan](http://oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan)



# What You Do

## **PARTNER WITH POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

Presentations and guest speakers: Make connections with local college faculty and staff and ask them to present to students and parents about financial aid, student services, and more. Professors and graduate students can also share their research as it relates to what high school students are studying in class.

**SUMMER PROGRAMS:** Partner with local postsecondary institutions to offer summer camps and workshops either on campus or at your school.

**Virtual visits:** Ask professors and current college students to serve as pen pals with students or classes, either via mail or video chat service like Skype.

## **HELP STAFF BE KNOWLEDGEABLE**

Professional development for all staff: Continue the conversation about college and career readiness. Read books and articles in Professional Learning Communities or share research briefs during staff meetings.

**STAFF WORKSHOPS:** Help all staff become college advisors to students by holding workshops on how to build a college-going culture in their classrooms, college/career readiness lessons or curriculum ties, or how to support students in participating in deposit days.

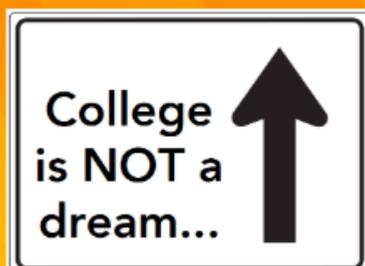
## **MAKE IT FUN!**

**College gear day:** Choose a day of the week or month for students and staff to wear college-related gear. Offer incentives or small prizes for participants.

**COLLEGE RIVAL DAYS** Take advantage of your state's college rivalries to plan fun (and educational) activities about college around major sporting events.

**COLLEGE CLUBS:** Create a student club that meets after school or during lunch that is focused on getting ready for college. Encourage members to be peer leaders and help put on workshops and events and create posters for hallways.

# WHAT IS COLLEGE?





# College Career Planning Tools

In this section, you will find resources, templates and curriculum that can be used in your efforts to foster a college-going culture at your school site. Some of the materials are designed for a specific level (elementary or middle school), but most can be easily adapted to fit different age groups and audiences. A description of the activity is provided along with links for electronic access to the full set of materials.



## College and Career Planning/Launching

Resources Resource + Link(s)	Description
<p><b>Benefits of Going to College Presentations</b></p> <p><a href="#">Elementary School: What is College?</a>  <a href="#">Middle School: 5 Ways a College Education Pays</a></p>	<p>At the elementary and middle school level, it's import to instill and inspire of the "Why" of going to college with students. "Benefits of Going to College" presentation was inspired by the College Board's 5 Ways Ed Pay and has been adjusted to meet the developmental needs of early elementary (K-2), upper elementary (3-5) and middle school (6-8). These presentations can be used to kick off a college-going event, such as college week and be used during an assembly or in individual classes.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Bulletin Board Resources</a></b></p> <p><b>NEW! <a href="#">High School Bulletin Board Resources (Added 2020)</a></b></p>	<p>Explore different bulletin boards ideas and get inspired. Folder also contains some reproducibles that get you started.</p> <p>**Bulletin board ideas for the high school level with a new addition of Virtual College &amp; Career boards to share resources through virtual learning.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">College Career Week Planning Tools</a></b></p>	<p>Inspired by the work of Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 in San Francisco, these resources were created to structure college and career activities taking place over the week.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Monthly Calendar of College Career Activities</a></b></p> <p><b>NEW! <a href="#">High School College &amp; Career Calendar</a></b></p>	<p>Adaptable calendar with suggested activities to map out a school year full of intentionally designed college and career activities. This calendar presents many opportunities to link with concurrent themes and existing school structures.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Career Day Planning Tools and Examples</a></b></p>	<p>This folder contains a combination of actual resources developed for SFUSD schools including a career presenter slide deck, tips and talking points for presenters, and a career day flyer. Additionally, you will be able to find toolkits for planning your career day in this folder.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">My Future, My Hands High School Commitment Week Start-Up Guide</a></b></p>	<p>My Future in My Hands is a student-facing campaign supporting <i>SFUSD's</i> rising 9th graders to declare that education is the passport to their future and that they will overcome any obstacles that stand in their way. It's a peer-to-peer encouragement model that celebrates the important transition to high school starting with making a commitment to the <a href="#">Class of 2023 Creed</a>. This initiative creates a community around high school readiness, giving students—and the adults in their lives—the support they need to succeed.</p>

# Activities

Following are a few examples activities that can be used with middle school age students. Activities have been categorized by college knowledge/aspirations, financial literacy, academic preparation, and career exploration. The activities range in scope. Some are simply ideas to inspire creativity in your building while others have a template to print or links to additional resources to help you execute that particular activity.

Source: Michigan College Access Network



## College and Career Activities

### KEY:



= Elementary



= Middle School

Resource	Description	Level
<a href="#">Ed Journeys</a> <a href="#">Ed Journey Template</a> <a href="#">Ed Journey Interview Form</a>	<p>Provide posters for all teachers and staff to share where they went to college and words of wisdom. Encourage faculty and staff to include a photograph of themselves wearing a cap and gown from their graduation ceremony. Display the posters and photos in classrooms and hallways.</p> <p>Create an interview assignment for students to gather Ed Journey information. Older students can also make the Ed Journeys for the staff. One of your college career activities could be Ed Journey scavenger hunt.</p>	
<b>College Ready Attributes</b>	<p>Explain to students that the good habits and self-discipline needed for success in college and in careers develop early in life. Have students brainstorm a list of personal attributes and activities that could help someone become college-ready. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes list of things to do</li> <li>• Follows directions carefully</li> <li>• Reads every day</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Elementary Roadmap College Readiness Checklist</a></p>	
<b>Alma Mater Pride</b>	Encourage faculty and staff to proudly display their alma mater flags and/or diplomas in classrooms and offices.	
<b>Career Aspiration Signs</b>	Take photos of students in a cap and gown with signs of what they want to be when they grow up.	
<b>Career Pin Board</b>	Use magazines, newspapers, or websites to provide visuals and discussion starts for the different types of careers. Reinforce the student's interests by showing pictures or details about the field of interest. Have students create a poster or online pinboard about a career of interest.	
<b>Career Posters</b>	Research with students what it will take to become successful in a particular field; the goal is to help students become aware of various types of careers and fields and help them to see these are attainable. Each student creates a poster about that particular field or career.	
<b>College Bookmarks</b>	Create college bookmarks decorating them with college mascots, logos and facts.	

# Activities (Continued)



## College and Career Activities

Resource	Description	Level
College Chant	Teach students college chants and perform them together at an assembly.	
College Map	Design a bulletin board with school staff photographs and a map of where they attended college.	
College Planning Timeline	Create a poster demonstrating the expected touch points the school/district will communicate important college planning resources through a student's academic career.	
Commitment to My Future	Design a pledge for students to include actions that will keep them on the path to college. See also <a href="#">High School Commitment Week</a>	
Door-Decorating Contest	Host a door- decorating contest for classrooms; assign college themes to each door.	
Family College Night	Host an informational night for students and families about early ways to prepare for college.	
Listen and Share	Actively listen to students and ask questions about their futures; share your process of thinking about a future occupation and picking a college.	
Mascot Match	Teachers or mentees read through each school mascot in the state and have the student match an image of the mascot to the college name.	
Reading Corner	Read college- and career-related books to students such as "Mahalia Mouse Goes to College" by John Lithgow, "What Do People Do All Day" by Richard Scarry, "Unstoppable Me! 10 Ways to Soar Through Life" by Dr. Wayne Dyer, and "Giant Steps to Change the World" by Spike Lee.	
<a href="#">Resume Building</a>	Create a resume with chores a student does at home and the things the student is good at in and out of school.	
Show Your Pride	Wear college gear during designated college application days, weeks or months to encourage younger grades to celebrate seniors applying to college.	
Wall of Fame	Provide a Wall of Fame with pictures of the previous years graduated students. Include facts about which high school or college they are attending, their major(s), and the activities they are involved with.	
<a href="#">A-Z College Terminology Slide Deck</a>	Introduce and reinforce college going terminology with this K-8 friendly slide deck.	
<a href="#">College Bingo</a>	Play a game with students and staff where you learn interesting college facts about the teachers, counselors and staff at your school site.	

# Kindergarten to College



The San Francisco Kindergarten to College (K2C) Program is a college savings program by the City and County of San Francisco in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). A K2C college savings account is automatically opened for each SFUSD student entering kindergarten or participating program year. The City and County of San Francisco starts each account with \$50, and families have the opportunity to earn additional incentives.

Financial literacy is an important conversation towards building a college-going culture, and offers another dimension of parent participation and should be started as early as possible, hence the collective efforts of K2C and SFUSD. Organization around these efforts at the school site can initiate financial awareness for both students and families. Taking positive steps towards saving for college creates a trajectory towards going to college (research shows that the effort behind this is more important than the dollar amount saved). Schools are well positioned to support this cause by setting up structures that support financial literacy such as school wide deposit days for K2C and teaching financial literacy across all grade levels.

## Did you know that?....

- A child with a college savings account in their name is **6 times** more likely to go to college
- 3 times more likely to attend college
- 4 times more likely to graduate from college
- College graduates make more than \$1,000,000 dollars more in a lifetime than non-graduates



## K2C/Financial Literacy Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Deposit Days (How to Establish and Organize) (Updated)</a>	A step-by-step to bring the bank you your school in order to help students contribute to their K2C college savings account. This event can be replicated in individual classrooms to sustain monthly deposits.
<a href="#">Check Your Balance Tip Sheet</a>	The Check Your Balance Tip Sheet provides information to families on checking their student's K2C account. It includes how to register and login to the online bank account, how to check the balance and how to make a deposit.
<a href="#">Scholarship Framework</a>	This document includes tips and ideas for setting up scholarship opportunities at your school site based on a variety of themes.
<a href="#">NEW! High School K2C Introduction Mini Lesson</a>	This mini lesson is for high school counselors to first become familiar with K2C, and then engage high school students in their opportunities to save for their post-secondary goals. Intended to launch K2C at the HS level ad engage new students each year thereafter.



Deposit Day at BVHM  
→





# Curriculum

College-Going Culture refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in post-secondary education. **Classroom lessons can be used as mechanism to introduce, inspire and reinforce these cultural dimensions.**

## Fundamentals:

- As early as elementary school, students begin to learn about options for their futures and the education required for certain careers.
- Schools convey the expectation that all students can prepare for the opportunity to attend and be successful in post-secondary education.
- Schools, families, and communities all reinforce the same message of high expectations for a student's future.



Source: Berkeley Center for Educational

## Elementary Curriculum

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Roadmap to College Curriculum Guide</a> <a href="#">Summary of Book Titles</a> <a href="#">Early Elementary Flashcards</a> <a href="#">Upper Elementary Flashcards</a>	<p>The Roadmap to College kit contains ready-to-use resources that will help school staff create a college-going culture, both within individual classrooms and school wide. The kit includes a read-aloud library which is aligned to nine identified college and career readiness themes. The themes have been linked to teaching skills and encouraging habits and dispositions that bolster students' post-secondary aspirations with an emphasis on going to college. A teacher-friendly, scripted flashcard accompanies each read-aloud book in the library.</p>
<a href="#">Early Elementary (K-2) Financial Literacy Lesson</a>	<p>Students will be introduced to money and how it works. Through illustrations and activities, they will learn about different types of money, how it is used, where it come from, what a bank is, and how to save money. K2C college savings account is emphasized at the end of the lesson.</p>
<a href="#">Early Elementary (K-2) Career Exploration Lesson</a>	<p>Through a read aloud, students will learn about the different kind of tools used for different jobs. They will explore what they envision to be when they grow up, and understand the concepts: tools, workers and help.</p>
<a href="#">Upper Elementary (3-5) Financial Literacy Lesson</a>	<p>Student will learn where money comes from, how money works in the real world, what is a budget and how to stay in budget; and about other factors that can affect the budget. K2C college savings account is emphasized at the end of the lesson.</p>
<a href="#">Upper Elementary (3-5) Career Exploration Lesson</a>	<p>Students will be introduced to a six cluster career model and the possible careers and occupations from each cluster. Students will discover what job they could enjoy doing based on the activities they enjoy doing.</p>



# Curriculum Continued

## ES and MS College Career Readiness Themes

- Career Exploration
- Financial Literacy
- Growth Mindset
- Study Skills
- Teamwork
- Goal Setting
- Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Creativity

## High School Readiness Themes:

- Transition to MS
- Calculating GPA
- Reading MS Report Card
- Reading MS Transcript
- Reading HS Transcript
- A-G Requirements
- UC/CSU Eligibility
- Exploring SFUSD High Schools
- CTE Pathways



## Middle & High School Curriculum (\*High School Added Oct. 2020)

Resource + Links	Description
<a href="#">MS Financial Literacy Lesson</a>	Students will learn about the basics of credit and how to avoid falling into bad credit. Through questionnaires and activities comparing real life examples, students will understand how credit is measured, how credit cards impact credit scores, and how to start building good credit.
<a href="#">MS Career Exploration Lesson</a>	The Holland Code lesson introduces students to the theory of careers and occupational choices that relate to personality types. They will identify the occupations in the areas of realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising, and conventional personalities.
<a href="#">Transition to Middle School: Support Network</a>	The transition to middle school presents new challenges for students and there is a higher expectation for students to navigate support at school. This lesson will highlight differences of middle school (compared to elementary) and explore support at school (who can help in different situations).
<a href="#">MS Calculate GPA</a>	In this lesson, students will be introduced to the concept of G.P.A. or grade point average, understand why it matters, connect to their current school context and create a meaningful GPA goal.
<a href="#">MS Goal Setting Lesson</a>	This lesson helps students explore effective goal setting using the SMART format.
<a href="#">MS A-G Requirements</a>	This lesson will focus on distinguishing key differences between high school and middle school. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own feelings about the big transition ahead. A-G requirements will be introduced in addition to the concept of earning credits towards high school graduation and beyond.
<a href="#">HS Career Exploration Lesson</a>	Turning my Interests into a Career & Building My Resume... This lesson has students revisit Holland Codes and a personality assessment to begin connecting to careers & majors by aligning skills and interests with career goals. In addition, students learn how to make a strong professional presence through resume development and LinkedIn.



# Curriculum Continued



## High School Curriculum Continued

Resource + Links	Description
<p><b>NEW! HS College Exploration</b></p> <p><a href="#">Grades Matter! &amp; Let's Talk About College (A-G/Grad Requirements &amp; College 101 Overview)- 9th Grade</a></p> <p><a href="#">Exploring My Options- 10th Grade</a></p> <p><a href="#">Building My Application Profile &amp; College List- 11th/12th grade</a></p> <p><a href="#">Financial Aid 101: Planning for College</a></p>	<p>The college exploration series at the 9th &amp; 10th grades takes students through an introduction to post-secondary planning including graduation requirements and basic knowledge of college systems to the practice of reading their high transcript and beginning the college search.</p> <p>Next, students begin a much more thorough exploration of their post-secondary plans by examining the benefits of pursuing a college education and then learning how to identify the best fit colleges including dream, target and safety schools, understanding admissions requirements, and developing a college packet. This lesson should be delivered in 11th grade but can also be delivered to seniors in the fall semester.</p> <p>The Financial Aid 101 lesson can be delivered at any grade level but most ideal in 11th grade and no later than early fall of senior year to introduce financial aid options including saving for college with K2C. Lesson can be slightly modified to introduce the topic to 9th &amp; 10th graders with a plan to follow-up in senior year. Lesson covers the basics of the FAFSA/CA Dream Act, and the main funding sources: Grants, Loans, Work Study, Savings &amp; Scholarships. Additional information is included for undocumented students.</p>
<p><b>NEW! HS Academic Skill Building</b></p> <p><a href="#">Transitioning Into High School: What Strategies Will Help Me?- 9th Grade</a></p> <p><a href="#">Enhancing My Educational Experience...-11th Grade</a></p> <p><a href="#">In It To Win It!- 12th grade</a></p>	<p>Transitioning to high school can be quite overwhelming for students given everything new they must navigate from earning credits, understanding the graduation requirements to managing more rigorous coursework and meeting new peers. The 9th grade lesson provides students with tools and exercises to help students start the year off successfully. Themes include time management, study skills and calculating their GPA.</p> <p>By 11th grade, students should be considering additional opportunities to maximise their high school experience and build their college readiness. This lesson has students dive deeper into their 4 year planning by exploring options like enrolling in college courses, AP classes and connecting to new extracurricular opportunities. The lesson wraps-up with recognizing that at times it can be challenging to stay motivated and connected and helps students explore what they need to do well.</p> <p>To wrap-up in 12th grade, the <i>In It to Win It</i> lesson helps students identify the signs of senioritis and procrastination and how to stop them in their tracks. Themes to help students apply these skills include college scenarios and developing a SMARTER goal.</p>



# College Field Trips



## College Field Trips Resources and Lessons

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Leading Inspiring College Field Trips Staff Presentation</a>	<p>This is a presentation that you can provide to staff. It is created with the larger framework for creating a college going culture. The presentation includes ready-to-use ideas and resources for setting up meaningful college field trips for students.</p>
<p><b>Middle School Friendly College Field Trips</b></p> <p><a href="#">College Field Trips Templates</a>  <a href="#">Facilitators Guide</a>  <a href="#">Scavenger Hunt</a></p> <p><b>Prepackaged Field Trips:</b></p> <p><a href="#">City College of San Francisco</a>  <a href="#">Sacramento State University</a>  <a href="#">Sonoma State University</a>  <a href="#">Stanford University</a></p>	<p>This section contains templates and resources for setting up inspiring college field trips that are appropriate for middle school students. Generally, college campuses are set up for high school students. Those experiences often focus heavily on the “HOW” of college, the important technical things that high school students must know. The materials provided here are specifically geared toward the “WHAT” and “WHY” of college with the goal of familiarizing students to the main features common to most college campuses and most importantly getting them to feel inspired to go. All of the resources linked on this page are companions to each other.</p>
<p><a href="#">Connecting to College Lesson</a>  <i>All all materials included: lesson plan, slide deck and accompanying materials.</i></p>	<p>An introduction to the concept of college will with a focus on “the what” (what is college) and “the why” (tapping into the aspirational side of pursuing college). This lesson will gauge students baseline knowledge of college and examine key skills and dispositions that support future success on the path to college; and connect to students interests, strengths and goals.</p>
<p><a href="#">Overcoming Roadblocks Lesson</a>  <i>All all materials included: lesson plan, slide deck and accompanying materials.</i></p>	<p>Students will discuss common roadblocks that will occur on their path to college and explore different strategies and ideas that they can apply to overcome these roadblocks and common challenges.</p>
<p><a href="#">Goal Setting/Vision Board Lesson</a>  <i>All all materials included: lesson plan, slide deck and accompanying materials.</i></p>	<p>In this lesson, students will create individual collages representing long-term personal, educational, and career goals. Every vision board will be different and may include words and images representing different life areas. Students will use images to represent home, family, career, travel, education, etc.</p>
<p><b>NEW!</b> <a href="#">High School Virtual College Tour Extension Activity</a></p>	<p>There are many challenges to helping students visit college campus including transportation, funding, and ability for students to go on their own. In addition, due to current events in 2020, virtual opportunities are now a part of our counseling practice. We also know there are many proactive students and students who we need to engage more in their post-secondary planning, so virtual college tours meet all of these needs in a very practical way. This extension activity has multiple options for delivery and can be used as a scholarship contest as well. Students can work independently to explore colleges/universities of their choice (or assigned colleges/universities), begin the process of looking for best fit colleges, and practice using technology to conduct college research. Depending on delivery method you choose, students can also share what they learned with classmates.</p>