

College Talk

Students Must See, Hear, and Talk about College on a Daily Basis College must be a tangible reality for all students. This means that all teachers should act as college counselors in the classroom. School staff must make a concerted effort to ensure that **all students develop a college-going identity** and consider higher education to be a relevant choice.

On a classroom level, teachers can integrate “College Talk” into daily classroom discourse by:



- Sharing their own college pathways with students, including their decision making process and any factors that shaped their academic trajectory
- Setting expectations about college going by incorporating discussions about college admissions and attendance into daily learning
- Working with a professor from a local university to identify a sample college-level assignment and then

implementing and discussing the assignment so that students gain an understanding of the format, content, and expectations of college classes

On a school level, staff can increase college awareness by:

- Holding regular brown bag college lunches at which teachers, alumni, and other staff discuss their alma maters and college experiences
- Conducting college fairs at the school site
- Planning college visits to local institutions of higher education
- Implementing college essay contests
- Scheduling college talks by school alumni currently enrolled in college, parents, and/or university personnel



- Including important college facts and admission reminders (e.g., test registration dates, application deadlines) in the daily bulletin and/or school newsletter
- Displaying college information (e.g., university posters, testing information) in classrooms, hallways, the lunchroom, and administrative offices
- Encouraging door decorating contests in which each homeroom or advisory group selects and researches a college and then prepares an informational poster for display on the door or entryway of the classroom