



SMALL WAYS TO CREATE A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE



<p>Around campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hang posters and brochures from community, two-year, and four-year colleges on walls • Use college pennants as décor • Announce upcoming campus college events with flyers in bathrooms, hallways, and cafeteria. • Utilize computer labs by having college resource websites bookmarked to all students to use the internet to apply for admission, financial aid, and scholarships • Arrange for labs to be open for students and families to register, especially near FAFSA deadlines
<p>With Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to wear apparel from their alma maters every Friday • Post pictures of each staff member in the main hallway, including where they obtained their degrees • Encourage staff to talk about their college experience with students • Encourage staff to have a college board in their classrooms. • Include college-going prompts into classroom discussions and writing • Inform staff members about changes in college admission, graduation requirements, basic college entrance requirements, testing, and courses at your school through “college corner” newsletter and faculty meetings • Be sure staff know where to direct students online or to counseling office when they need help with applying to college. • Make sure that staff share the message that college is possible for ALL students, not just the honors students.
<p>COURSES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a dual enrollment class or referral process if your school does not already have one • Have all academic students take at least one dual enrollment class before they graduate • Create a college 101 and prep class • Motivate students to take classes by showing how college classes can support high school diploma completion.
<p>COUNSELING OFFICE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold individual conferences with students, regardless of academic level, to monitor future plans • Handout bookmark or flyers with college resource links • Invite local college graduates to speak • Hold a career day or college fair • Become friendly with local admissions officers; invite them to come to your school. • Host college information sessions with admissions officers during lunch periods • Send a “College Corner” newsletter to students and faculty • Discuss a college-focused issue in every set of announcements • Create a college-of-the-week profile, complete with pictures • Attend college conference and campus visits • Restructure counseling office into a college center where students can find information about scholarships, applications, and financial aid. • Become aware of programs like College Goal Sunday that aid families with financial aid forms • Ask for donations of college brochures and guidebooks • Lead small-group session on college issues. • Hold sessions day and evening along with translators for families and parents • Celebrate students’ acceptances publicly. • Change the name of your department to “Counseling and Postgraduate Planning.”

Adapted from the College Board, *Creating a College-Going Culture Guide*. 2006.