



*Helping Students Plan for  
College and Career*

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# Table of Contents

- About Florida College Access Network
- About Plan It Florida
- What Can Students Do After High School?
- College & Career Preparation Tracks
- College & Career Preparation Activities



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# About Florida College Access Network

On behalf of Florida College Access Network (FCAN) *thank you for participating in Plan It Florida.*

**FCAN** is the heart of a movement to ensure today's students are prepared for tomorrow's jobs.

**Our Mission:** We lead the statewide collaborative movement to strengthen Florida by ensuring every Floridian attains education beyond high school toward a rewarding career.

**Our Vision:** We envision a thriving Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility and a prosperous economy for all.

## **FCAN's work is guided by Seven Conditions for Success:**

1. **Opportunity for Everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.
2. **Clear information and guidance:** Students of all ages and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.
3. **Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.
4. **Multiple Pathways to Success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.
5. **Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning opportunities.
6. **Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, help achieve our goals.
7. **Community Collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

**FCAN would like to thank the following organizations for contributing materials and ideas for the development of this toolkit:**

Armwood High School, Middleton High School/Hillsborough Community College (HCC) College Bound Initiative, Florida School Counselor Association, School District of Osceola County, GEAR UP Washington State, and Michigan College Access Network.



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# About Plan It Florida

For Florida families to prosper, most Floridians will need an education beyond high school to achieve a rewarding career.

There are multiple pathways to success, but making a decision can feel overwhelming for students. That's why Plan It Florida was created.

**Plan It Florida** helps students engage in college and career preparation activities to graduate high school with a plan for what comes next, whether they enroll in postsecondary education, enlist in serving their community or our country, or seek employment ideally armed with a short-term credential that can build economic mobility. To make the process feel less daunting, Plan It Florida provides the 4 E planning framework:

**Expose:** Students can't be what they can't see. Expose students early and often to many career possibilities to spark their interest.

**Explore:** Students can take assessments to learn more about their strengths and how their strengths align with various career options of interest. They can then learn about the education they will need to earn the career they aspire to.

**Experiment:** Through clubs, volunteering, part-time jobs or job shadowing, students can "try on" these future careers to see if they are a fit.

**Execute:** Now it's time for students to put their plan into action. Students will apply to college or a career/technical program, enlist in a service program or apply for an apprenticeship or other short-term program that will prepare them for work.



Throughout this guide are activities to urge students to start thinking about life after high school and preparing their journey. Use this guide to help students start planning their next steps early and to support them at every stage.

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# Education is transformational.

Today's students can start anywhere to develop a lifelong career— a college degree or certificate is a great start. 72% of jobs will require education beyond high school by 2031. Studies show that postsecondary education is the surest path to stability, prosperity, and greater lifetime earnings. The impact is life-changing.



## *Higher education, Higher rewards.*

You play a pivotal role in guiding students' educational journeys—your insights shape their path forward.

Share our free tools and resources to support students explore education options that align with their aspirations.

- Statewide Initiatives: [Apply Yourself Florida](#), [Florida FAFSA Challenge](#), and [College Decision Day](#), and [Plan It Florida](#)
- Research Reports: [Understanding Career and Technical Education](#), [The Case for Dual Enrollment](#), and [The Real Cost of College in Florida](#)
- [Register](#) for statewide initiatives to receive more information to free webinars, new resources, and more.

Together, we are building a [Talent Strong Florida!](#)

<sup>1</sup>Source: Georgetown Center for Workforce and Education, March 2024 report.



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# Make a Plan!

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It is important for students to start early to plan for life after high school. To support students in planning for their future, engage them in the 4 E's—Expose, Explore, Experiment, Execute—to encourage them in exploring their interests and career options, and developing a plan to achieve their goals. The college and career preparation activities throughout this toolkit have been broken down into these four tracks:



## EXPOSE

**EXPOSE** students to a wide range of potential career options available.

Activities can include a workplace visit or attending a college or career fair.



## EXPLORE

Help students **EXPLORE** careers and postsecondary options they're interested in and encourage them to learn more about them.

Activities can include interviewing someone who works in a career that interests them, volunteering with a particular group, or visiting a college campus.



## EXPERIMENT

Encourage students to **EXPERIMENT** with different skill sets and interests to discover what they like.

Activities can include shadowing someone at work, joining a career-focused club, or participating in an internship.



## EXECUTE

Help students **EXECUTE** the plan they have made.

Activities can include applying to college, filling out the FAFSA, creating a résumé, or applying for jobs.

# College and Career Preparation Activities

There are many ways schools and community partners can help students explore their college and career options. Below are activities schools can use to spark your students' interests.

| Activity                          | Grade | EXPOSE | EXPLORE | EXPERIMENT | EXECUTE |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| Career Chats                      | 6-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| Lunch & Learn                     | 6-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| Workplace Visit                   | 6-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| Alumni Visit                      | K-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| How do I become a...?             | 4-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| Name That Job!                    | 6-12  |        | ✓       |            |         |
| Career Interviewing/Shadowing     | 6-12  |        | ✓       | ✓          |         |
| Internships/Volunteering/Work     | 8-12  |        | ✓       | ✓          |         |
| Door Decorating Contest           | K-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| Club/Extracurricular Fair         | 6-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| College/Career Fair               | 6-12  | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| College/Career Interest Portfolio | 8-12  |        |         | ✓          |         |
| Adopt-A-College                   | K-5   | ✓      |         |            |         |
| College Map                       | K-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| Graduation Walk                   | K-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| High School Fair                  | 6-8   |        | ✓       |            |         |
| Family College Nights             | 6-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| Ask Me About It!                  | 6-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| College Visit: Scavenger Hunt     | 6-12  |        | ✓       | ✓          |         |
| College Bingo                     | 10-12 | ✓      | ✓       |            |         |
| Apply Yourself Florida            | 12    |        |         |            | ✓       |
| College T-Shirt Day               | 9-12  | ✓      |         |            |         |
| Florida FAFSA Challenge           | 12    |        |         |            | ✓       |
| Financial Aid Night               | 11-12 |        |         |            | ✓       |
| College Decision Day              | 12    |        |         |            | ✓       |
| Celebration Display Wall          | K-12  |        |         |            | ✓       |



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## Career Chats

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Low-Med

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Inviting professionals to come to your school to talk to students can expose them to careers they might not otherwise have experience with. These career chats can take multiple forms:

#### Panel discussion:

Invite multiple professionals in a single sector or multiple sectors to come and talk about their jobs to an assembly of students or to a specific class related to the subject area.

#### Luncheon:

Invite professionals to a luncheon, and seat students at tables with a professional seated at each table to talk with students. Professionals circulate throughout the lunch so students hear from multiple people.

#### Small class discussions:

Invite professionals to present to individual classrooms.

## Lunch & Learn

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

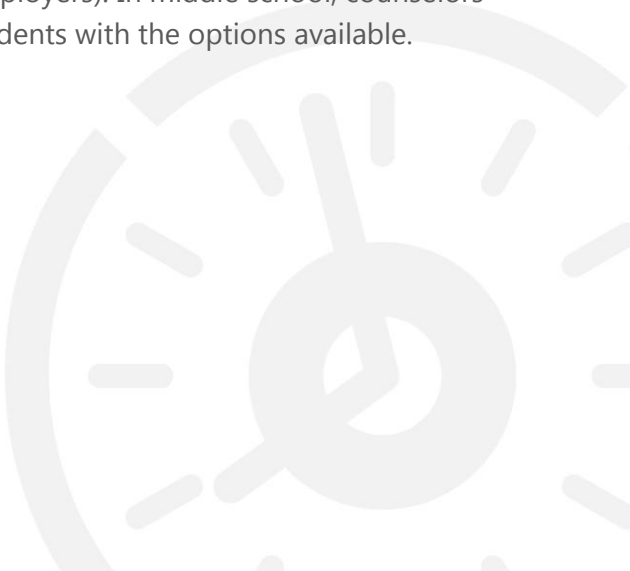
EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Many schools make use of "Lunch & Learn" events they hold once a week or once a month. Students bring their lunches to a classroom where they can learn about different careers.

Some counselors use lunch & learn events for specific tasks like college essay writing, applications, FAFSA completion, Bright Futures application, etc. These settings can also be used for more informal activities.

Counselors can use this time to invite guest speakers (such as area employers). In middle school, counselors can bring guest speakers from different high schools to familiarize students with the options available.





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## Workplace Visit

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Med-High

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Taking students to visit local employers can help them develop an idea of what jobs are available in the area and what kind of work people in different industries do.

This can be an especially effective strategy for building interest in high-demand jobs students might not be familiar with.

## Alumni Visit

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** None

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Invite school alumni to speak with students about what they've done since graduating, what they're studying in college, and what they hope to do next.

Consider inviting local alumni, especially those studying at the local state college, or inviting college students during their winter break (which tends to be longer than elementary/high school winter break). You can also invite students who continued in other pathways, such as military, career/technical education, or an apprenticeship.

## How do I become a...?

**Appropriate for Grades:** 4-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

This activity can help students plan ahead by thinking about what steps they will need to take for certain careers. For instance, if a student wants to be a nurse, they can research what types of programs exist, what they should study in high school, etc.

- 1) Students will identify the educational requirements for their careers of interest, including possible majors, and map the timelines for obtaining the educational credentials needed.
- 2) Students will research the rewards a particular career offers and average salaries to balance the cost of higher education.
- 3) Students can research the cost of higher education (cost of attendance) on college websites and be introduced to ways of funding their education (potential grants through FAFSA, scholarships, savings, loans).

Students can make a PowerPoint or create a poster showing what they learned about their chosen career. However, students should have all their research in one place to return to for reference.

# Name That Job!

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** None

**Category:** EXPLORE

## Activity description:

### Instructions:

- 1) Have students number a piece of paper from 1 to 30.
- 2) Tell students to quickly list as many job titles as possible in five minutes.
  - a. Variation: Have students work in pairs to complete the exercise and award a small prize for each pair that reaches 30.
- 3) At the end of five minutes, have students do the following:
  - a. Checkmark any jobs that they would be interested in learning more about.
  - b. Put a star by the jobs that are available in the community.
  - c. Circle the jobs that could be career-type jobs.
  - d. Underline a job that students think is not on everyone else's job list.
  - e. Put an "H" next to the jobs that only require a high school-level education.
  - f. Put a "C" or "V" next to jobs that require college or vocational training.

### Class discussion questions:

- Look at the jobs without the stars. Where can these jobs be found? Would relocation be an option to take one of these jobs?
- Name one job that is probably not on everyone else's list. Where is this job found? What type of education is required to do this work?
- How many jobs required high school only?
- How many jobs required college or vocational training?



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## Career Interviewing/Shadowing

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** None-Low

**Categories:**

EXPLORE

EXPERIMENT

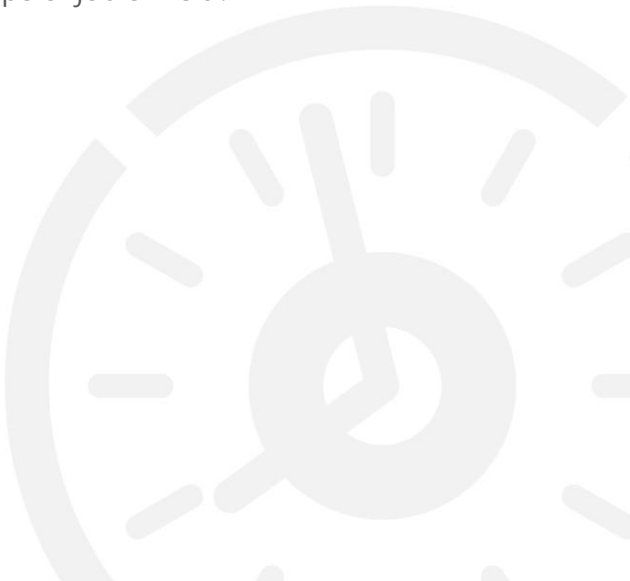
### Activity Description:

Students can learn more about careers that interest them by interviewing or shadowing adults with those jobs. This project can make a good assignment in English where students can write up a report on what they learned, social studies, and math or financial literacy classes where students can explore the education needed and the cost of that education relative to the wages/salary earned. See the below for sample interview questions.

Building relationships with employers who are willing to give their employees time to work with students can be a good way to help connect students with professionals. Some employers offer their employees paid volunteer time. Consider reaching out to area employers to see if they have employees willing to participate at your school. Some employers may be concerned about the liability of students visiting their workplace, so they may be more willing to come to the school and present.

### Sample Informal Interview Questions

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- What are your main responsibilities as a...?
  - What is a typical day (or week) like for you?
  - What do you like most/least about your work?
  - Is there something that surprised you about the role when you first started?
  - How did you become interested in this field?
  - How did you begin your career? What were some of your early roles in the field?
  - What skills, abilities, and personal attributes are essential to success in your job/this field?
  - What kind of education, training, or background does your job require?
  - How do you see this job changing in the next 10 years?
  - Can you recommend any trade journals, magazines or professional associations which would be helpful for my professional development?
  - What do you wish you'd known when you were starting out in this career/role?
  - What advice would you give someone who is considering this type of job or field?
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## Internships/Volunteering/Work

**Appropriate for Grades:** 8-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Categories:**

EXPLORE

EXPERIMENT

### Activity Description:

Working part-time in a paid or unpaid setting can give students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in a particular field. This can help them determine if they are interested in pursuing this field and getting the necessary education.

High school students may be limited in the areas where they can intern. That said, there are many places that are open to hosting high school interns/volunteers that can help students begin experimenting.

Internship/Volunteer Opportunities:

- School district – some school districts are expanding internship opportunities for students in fields such as equipment maintenance, IT, marketing/social media, and graphic design
- Animal shelter/ASPCA (for students interested in veterinary)
- Nursing home (for students interested in medicine)
- Local representative's office (for students interested in law or politics)
- 5K runs supporting local charitable causes
- Food drives
- Serving at a local shelter

Students can also consider part-time jobs based on their interests:

- Retail (for students interested in business/sales/management)
- Childcare or Camp Counselor (for students interested in education)
- Local employers (for students interested in IT and web design)



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## Door Decorating Contest

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** None-Low

**Category:** EXPOSE

### What Do You Need?

- Computers
- Craft supplies (scissors, markers, colored pencils, construction paper)

### Activity Description:

To kick off the contest, assign every homeroom in a grade level a Florida college/university. Students in that homeroom must then conduct research on that institution and decorate their door in a way that reflects that school. Prizes for the winning homeroom can include candy, homework pass, a pizza party, etc.

A college door decorating contest is another great activity to incorporate into your school's spirit week or application week.

## Club/Extracurricular Fair

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Low-Med

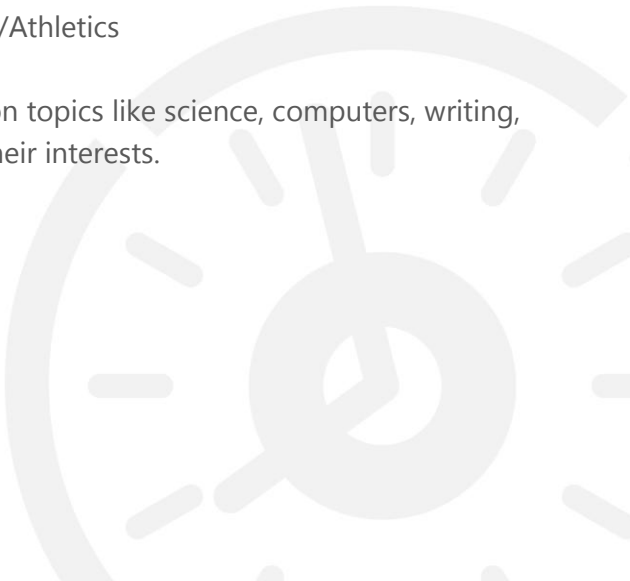
**Category:** EXPOSE EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Club/extracurricular fairs expose students to learn more about activities they might enjoy doing and what they're good at. While club/extracurricular fairs expose students to these activities, participating in clubs/extracurricular activities gives students the opportunity to explore their interests as it relates to their postsecondary pathway after high school.

- **Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Medicine:** Science Fair, FIRST Lego League/FIRST Tech Challenge/FIRST Robotics/Vex, Math League
- **Business, Law, and Communications:** Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Debate, Model UN, School newspaper, Yearbook, Student Government
- **Arts:** Creative writing, Theatre, Band/Orchestra, Chorus, Sports/Athletics

Academic summer camps—particularly those on college campuses—on topics like science, computers, writing, etc. can also be a good opportunity for students to experiment with their interests.



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## College/Career Fair

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Med-High

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

College and career fairs are a great resource for seniors to explore their options. Inviting younger students to participate in these fairs can help expose them to their options early.

Host a college/career fair primarily for eleventh and twelfth graders and invite younger students to participate as observers. Give them an activity to complete, like a scavenger hunt or a “passport” to have stamped at different booths. An alternative is have younger students view virtual college tours or to have a career fair for elementary and middle school students to learn about different careers.

### Directions for Career Fair Passport/Bingo:

1. Before the career fair, inform representatives that students will be exploring their booths by playing a bingo game. You can organize the careers by career clusters. An easy way to do this is to provide colored markers/stamps to careers belonging to certain clusters (e.g. careers in the business cluster get blue markers, careers in the health sciences cluster get green markers, etc.).
2. Make a list of the careers that will be present at the career fair.
3. Hand out blank bingo cards and have students fill in the blank spaces with the careers.
4. Students who have the career term on their card can get it signed by a representative after interacting with them. Encourage students to ask them questions about their careers and career paths.
5. Once students obtain a “bingo,” award a prize to the winner and encourage students to continue participating in the career fair.

## College/Career Interest Portfolio

**Appropriate for Grades:** 8-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:**

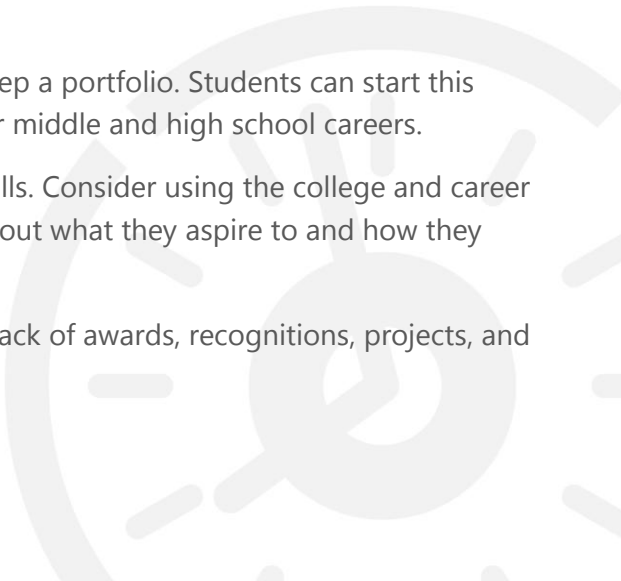
EXPERIMENT

### Activity Description:

To help students begin making a plan, it can be helpful for them to keep a portfolio. Students can start this portfolio as early as sixth grade and take it with them throughout their middle and high school careers.

They can start thinking about how this relates to their interests and skills. Consider using the college and career software used by the school district to encourage students to think about what they aspire to and how they can start experimenting in those career areas.

Students can use the provided activities résumé (next page) to keep track of awards, recognitions, projects, and accolades.



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## ACTIVITIES RÉSUMÉ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*School Activities (clubs, sports, etc.):*

| Activity | Grade(s) in which you participated in the activity | # of hours per week | # of weeks per year | Distinctions earned (offices held, recognition) |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                 |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                 |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                 |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                 |

*Awards & Honors:*

| Name of Award | Type of Award                          | Year(s) Awarded |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
|               | _Athletic _Academic _Talent (e.g. art) | _9 _10 _11 _12  |
|               | _Athletic _Academic _Talent            | _9 _10 _11 _12  |
|               | _Athletic _Academic _Talent            | _9 _10 _11 _12  |

*Leadership Positions:*

| Position | Grade(s)       |
|----------|----------------|
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12 |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12 |

*Community Service:*

| Activity | Grade(s) in which you participated in the activity | # of hours per week | # of weeks per year | Distinctions earned (e.g. volunteer of the year) |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                  |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                  |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                  |
|          | _9 _10 _11 _12                                     |                     |                     |                                                  |

*Work Experience:*

| Job | Dates | Duties/responsibilities |
|-----|-------|-------------------------|
|     |       |                         |
|     |       |                         |
|     |       |                         |

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## Adopt-A-College

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-5 | **Cost:** None-Low

**Category:** EXPOSE

### What Do You Need?

- Buy-in from school administration and teachers to commit to using agreed-upon language
- Materials for creating signage around the school

### Activity Description:

Starting in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, each grade level or class adopts a college for that year. Students participate in decorating the classroom with information about that college, such as the mascot, school colors, athletic team, what the college is known for, where it's located, learning the college chant/alma mater and singing it at school assemblies, etc (see [Door Decorating Contest](#)). Students can develop presentations to hold a mini "college fair" for other students and parents. With this approach, students will have learned about 5-7 different colleges by the time they graduate elementary school. Remember to include HBCUs!

## College Map

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:** EXPOSE

### What Do You Need?

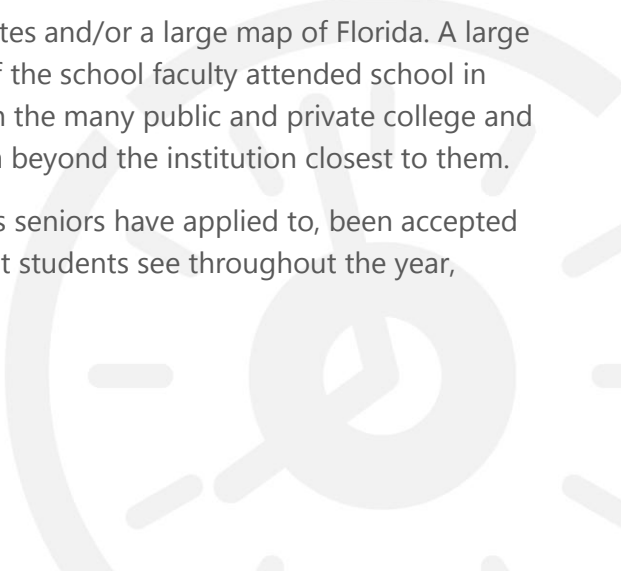
- A map and map pins
- Paper to display college logos
- A prominent place in the school to display the map

### Activity Description:

Display a college map throughout the year featuring pins and college logos to show where teachers, counselors, staff, etc. attended.

Depending on the size of your school, display a map of the United States and/or a large map of Florida. A large Florida map will give teachers more room to place their pins if most of the school faculty attended school in Florida. This also gives you the opportunity to familiarize students with the many public and private college and university options as well as career/technical schools available to them beyond the institution closest to them.

At a high school, you can also use a college map to show what schools seniors have applied to, been accepted to, and are planning to attend. Make sure this map is in a location that students see throughout the year,





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## Graduation Walk

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:** EXPOSE

### Activity Description:

During a graduation walk, graduating seniors walk through the schools where they attended elementary/middle schools wearing their caps and gowns. Students may also be encouraged to walk in groups based on what colleges they are attending and can walk behind someone carrying a flag for that college.

This activity helps elementary/middle school students build the expectation of completing their high school education, and of continuing their education afterward. It also gives older students the opportunity to serve as an example, and to reconnect with teachers from elementary school to show their progress and maturity.

## High School Fair

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-8 | **Cost:** Low-Med

**Category:** EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

Students have more choices than ever to find the right high school for them, including magnet schools, charter schools, career academies, and both public and private college preparatory schools.

Making sure that middle schoolers are fully aware of the high school options available to them will give them the opportunity to explore different areas of interest while in high school. Students who attend career academies can often earn industry certifications while in high school, which can help them become more employable. Or, in college prep classes like dual enrollment or AP, students can earn college-level credit at no cost.

Many districts already offer special nights to explore school options. If yours does not, connect with the district or high school leaders to bring this option together for students to explore.



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## Family College Nights

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### Activity Description:

College Night isn't just for seniors! It is important to expose both students and their parents to post-high school options starting at an early age. Family College Nights can be a good way to accomplish this.

For parents of younger students, it is important to introduce them to options for paying for college early, including Florida Prepaid, Bright Futures, and FAFSA. Familiarizing parents with these resources can increase their confidence that college is attainable for them and can help parents start planning early. This can increase the student's motivation to perform well.

## Ask Me About It!

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** None

**Category:**

EXPOSE

### Activity Description:

Using "Ask Me About It!" fliers, instruct school administration and teachers to post a sign on their office and classroom doors saying where they attended college and encouraging students to ask them about it.

On a set day (possibly during spirit week or college application week), teachers should set aside 10-15 minutes at the beginning of class to talk about their college experience and to encourage students to ask them about it. Encourage teachers to wear their college shirt to work that day.

Topics include:

- How did they know what college they wanted to attend?
  - How did they figure out what career they wanted to pursue?
  - What was the biggest adjustment in going to college?
- 

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## College Visit: Scavenger Hunt

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** Med-High

**Categories:**

EXPLORE

EXPERIMENT

### Activity Description:

Campus visits are shown to have a significant impact on building aspiration for young students to attend college, particularly when they see students like themselves on campus.

To help students get the most out of a campus visit, reach out to the admissions office to schedule a tour. You can also use the college scavenger hunt below to engage students.

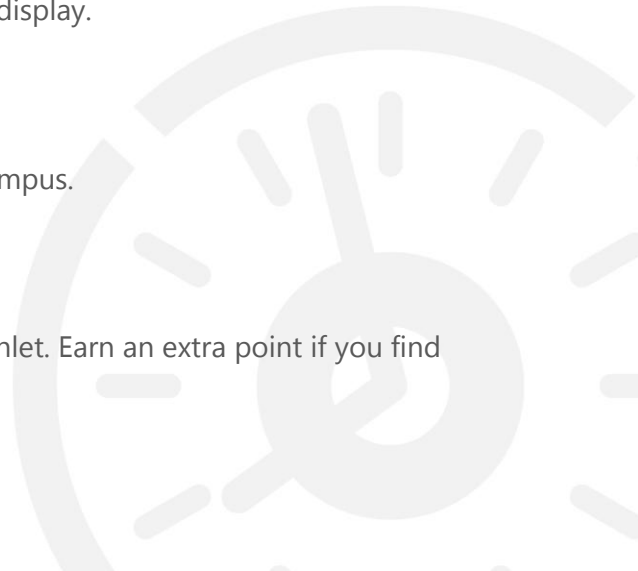
Campus visits don't have to be at a university. Taking students to a local state college, community college, and/or technical college can help reinforce these options.

### Instructions:

- 1) Reach out to the school's admissions office to ask if they will host a tour.
- 2) Finalize the scavenger hunt list using the sample list of campus locations/actions provided below. The list should include locations on the campus of choice that students can prove they've visited through photos or other tangible evidence.
- 3) Ask about any security access issues (for example, if buildings cannot be entered without student ID cards), campus rules, etc.
- 4) Split students up into teams, depending on age/grade level, and assign chaperones to each team.
- 5) At the end of the time period, compare findings and debrief activity with students.

### College Visit: Scavenger Hunt Sample List of Campus Locations/Actions

The list you provide to students will depend on the campus. Award one point per item unless otherwise noted. Use this list as a guide as you're planning your event:

- Find out how many foreign language courses are offered.
  - Find out the name of the university's mascot/take a picture of the mascot.
  - Find the name of the campus radio or TV station.
  - Find three faculty offices. Write down the professors' names and office hours.
  - Go to an arts building and take a picture in front of a student display.
  - Go to the English department and find the name of the chair.
  - Grab a pamphlet about a student organization.
  - Jot down the names of two campus cafeterias or food stands.
  - Learn the name of a cultural organization or association on campus.
  - Pick up a copy of a free campus newspaper.
  - Pick up an informational brochure from a career center.
  - Take a picture in the university bookstore.
  - Visit the financial aid office and collect a FAFSA form or pamphlet. Earn an extra point if you find information about a scholarship.
  - Visit the honors college office and pick up a brochure.
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## College Bingo

**Appropriate for Grades:** 6-12 | **Cost:** None

**Categories:**

EXPOSE

EXPLORE

### What Do You Need?

- Buy-in from school administration and teachers
- Bingo sheet (see [Career Term Bingo](#))

### Activity Description:

Print out the blank bingo cards for students (see [Career Term Bingo](#)). Give students time either during a specific school period or throughout the school day. Instruct students to fill their bingo cards with the college experience terms (see below) and find teachers/staff to sign off on the statements on the bingo card that corresponds to them and/or their college experience. Instruct students to only get one individual to sign each space. The first student(s) to complete the bingo card win(s) a prize. You can also provide prizes to all students who complete the bingo card.

### College Experience Terms

- Attended a 4-year college
  - Lived at home while attending college
  - Worked full-time while attending college
  - Is still close friends with their college roommate
  - Studied abroad while in college
  - Attended a college in Florida
  - Went to college on a scholarship
  - Changed majors 2 or more times
  - Majored in math
  - Majored in science
  - Attended an out-of-state college
  - Worked for the school newspaper, TV station, or radio in college
  - Lived on campus
  - Is currently enrolled in a college program or course
  - Had a mentor or other close advisor in college
  - Was president or leader of a school club
  - Has completed graduate school
  - Attended 2 or more colleges
  - Joined a fraternity or sorority
  - Played sports in college
  - Completed a FAFSA to help pay for college
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## Apply Yourself Florida

**Appropriate for Grades:** 12 | **Cost:** Low-Med

**Category:** EXECUTE

**Download FCAN's Apply Yourself Florida toolkit for more ideas for your event!**

### Activity Description:

Apply Yourself Florida is part of the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), a national effort to help more low-income and first-generation students apply to college. Schools participating in Apply Yourself Florida provide their students time and space during the school day to complete their applications.

There are a variety of ways to plan Apply Yourself Florida events:

- As a single-day event
- As a week-long series of college-related events and activities
- As a weekly opportunity for students to work on their applications

## College T-Shirt Day

**Appropriate for Grades:** 9-12 | **Cost:** None-Low

**Category:** EXPOSE

### Activity Description:

Most schools participate in a "Spirit Week" at least once a year. Including a college T-shirt day is a great way to encourage college talk and contribute to your school's college-going culture. Other schools may opt to do a weekly or monthly college T-shirt day. On the designated day, encourage students to wear a T-shirt with the college they would like to attend.

Giving away college apparel as prizes or incentives can be an effective way to engage students. Alternatively, have students decorate a plain T-shirt with colleges of interest.



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## Florida FAFSA Challenge

**Appropriate for Grades:** 12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:** EXECUTE

### Activity Description:

FCAN created the Florida FAFSA Challenge during the 2014-2015 school year with the purpose of encouraging schools and communities to improve their FAFSA completion rates by at least 5% over the previous year.

Taking on the Challenge can be an effective way to get your school excited about FAFSA completion.

**Download FCAN's Florida FAFSA Challenge toolkit for ideas on increasing FAFSA completion at your school.**

## Financial Aid Night

**Appropriate for Grades:** 11-12 | **Cost:** Low

**Category:** EXECUTE

### Activity Description:

Navigating the financial aid process can be daunting for students and parents. Hosting a financial aid night where families can hear from representatives of local colleges can help them prepare for the steps ahead.

Financial aid nights can take different forms:

- Presentation by an expert followed by a question and answer session
- FAFSA lab where parents and students can work on their financial aid application
- Hybrid including both features

If you host a Financial Aid Night before the FAFSA opens, or if you do not have time to go through the entire form, you can still take time to walk attendees through creating their FSA ID.



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## Florida College Decision Day

**Appropriate for Grades:** 12 | **Cost:** Low-Med

**Category:** EXECUTE

**Download FCAN's Florida College Decision Day toolkit for more ideas for your event!**

### Activity Description:

Florida College Decision Day is an initiative to recognize and celebrate students' plans for life after high school. It is inspired by NCAA's National Signing Day event and adapted by former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative. Its intent is to reinforce the value that academic achievements should be just as celebrated as athletic ones, and aims to increase postsecondary access for low-income and first-generation students.

## Celebration Display Wall

**Appropriate for Grades:** K-12 | **Cost:** None-Low

**Category:** EXECUTE

### What Do You Need?

- A wall in a central location in the school that you have permission to decorate
- Construction paper, photographs, maps, pennants, etc.

### Activity Description:

Displaying students' plans on a wall in the school can be a great way to recognize their plans, and to encourage other students to make plans.

Options include:

- A poster that students sign on College Decision Day with their names and where they plan to attend
- A map where students place pins indicating where they have been accepted
- A bulletin board where students post their acceptance letters
- A picture of the student and a brief description of their plan

