



# Middle School College & Career Preparedness

Career Day as an opportunity for all students to explore careers.

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# Thinking Prompt

What **activities or events** does your school currently do to prepare students for postsecondary learning and career readiness?

What **skills or outcomes** would you hope that students take away from these experiences?





# Finding Connections

**Underline any ideas in your Thinking Prompt that relate to these concepts:**

Procedural Learning

Cognitive Strategies

Norms and values

Mindset

Complex Thinking

Structure

Relational Skills

Ownership

Self-efficacy

Study Skills

Career Pathways

Content Knowledge





## Essential Questions

### EQ 1

Why is career exploration important?

### EQ 2

How can you organize a Career Day event in a way that gives access to *all* students?



## Why career exploration is critical...

- ✓ Improve academic performance and increase the likelihood of pursuing post-secondary education.
- ✓ Encourage students to plan their high school courses of study to gain the skills they will need.
- ✓ Improve attitudes of young people about career possibilities, motivating them to persevere.
- ✓ Give young people broader exposure to the working world they will one day enter.
- ✓ Improve knowledge of career options, encouraging students to develop and work toward goals.
- ✓ Allow students to more easily envision how they fit successfully into the working world.

*From AEEducation: America's Promise.org, June 2017*



# Middle School College and Career Readiness Matrix

*4 Keys to College and Career Readiness*

*David T. Conley, PhD University of Oregon*

1

**KNOW**

Content Knowledge

3

**ACT**

Academic Behaviors

2

**THINK**

Cognitive Strategies

4

**GO**

Contextual  
Awareness/Skills

Handout: Middle School College and Career Readiness

## Key Transition Knowledge & Skills

Dimension 4

GO

*How do you 'go'?*

Career pathways,  
postsecondary culture,  
workforce culture, and  
agency





## KEY TRANSITION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- + Contextual: What are my options?
- + Procedural: How do I apply and enroll?
- + Financial: How do I afford it?
- + Cultural: What are the behavioral norms of college/  
career?
- + Personal: How do I advocate for myself? What is  
my identity?





## The Statistics

Anywhere from **65 to 85 percent** of students will change their majors at least once. <sup>1</sup>

Young adults change jobs an average of **seven times** from age 20 to 29. <sup>2</sup>

The result is reduced **lifetime income** and **diminished career development**.

<sup>1</sup>ACT (2005), <sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Labor Statistics (2010)





## Equity and Access

A **CULTURE** of college and  
career readiness

AVID

CTE Pathways

Gear Up

Paxton Patterson College & Career Labs

Junior Achievement

MTSS

Upward Bound

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

LCAP

College/Career Readiness Indicator

# HOW can we provide opportunities for ALL students to explore careers?

*Organizing a schoolwide career day event.*





## Saving the Date

Reserve a day on the school's master calendar early in the school year.

Make it a yearly tradition. Reserve that date each year.

Create a timeline of things to do leading up to the day.



## Communicating with staff.

Publish the date on a calendar that everyone has access to.

Explain the purpose and vision for the Career Day.

Create a Career Day Committee that teachers can sign up for at the start of the year.



## Creating a schoolwide bell schedule.

Can you adjust the bell schedule in order to create extended blocks of time?

Can you still maintain the same number of periods in the day?

*Culture is crucial.* If it is a collective commitment, staff will be open to adjusting instructional time.



## Surveying students. Finding speakers.

Use a google form to gather information from students.

Use samplings of various grade levels.

Elicit feedback from specific student groups, class reps, etc.

Utilize community connections and staff member contacts.

Reach out to local businesses ,industries, and sectors in your area.



## Contacting speakers.

Make contact with enough time to plan but not too much time to forget.

Suggested timeframe: About 2 months in advance

Follow-up emails closer to the event.





## **Publicizing the event.**

Place fliers in every classroom.

ASB/school announcements and posters around campus.

Communicate with district office.

Post on school website, Twitter, Facebook, School Dojo, etc.



## Preparing students for the day

Dress for Success- Staff discussing what this looks like.


Schoolwide announcements.

ASB Spirit Awards for classes with students dressed for success.



# Chávez Schdars Dress for Success





## Placing speakers, assigning rooms, and creating a schedule.

Match the physical space with the needs of the speaker.

Match career path/industry with content area.

Combine smaller classes.

Prepare teachers to adjust or have alternate plans for a speaking block.



## Reminders and helpful tips for speakers.

Parking logistics.

Where to check in.

Technology and support available in the classroom.

Teacher presence.

Class size assurances.

Finding the classrooms.

[Handout: Career Day Details](#)



## Utilizing student leadership.

Students get matched up with a speaker ahead of the day.

Students introduce themselves to the speaker and develop a connection for that day.

Escort speakers to their rooms.

Assist with any props or items to carry.

Make them feel welcome and valued for their time.



## Welcoming speakers to your school.

Provide front office with the speakers and locations.

Sign-in sheet with speaker names and a place to sign in.

Career Day speaker lanyards with name and career/business.

Refreshments and bathrooms accessible before class presentations.

Certificates of Appreciation when guests sign out for the day.



## **Other logistics for the day.**


Staff expectations for the day.

One central gathering spot to start.

Waters available in classrooms for all speakers.

“Time check” signs for students to use.





# Student activities for processing and reflection.

## Focused Note-taking Guide

### Other resources:

<https://www.careerkey.org/choose-a-career/how-to-choose-a-career.html#.XXgVwihKgdV>

<http://www.californiacolleges.edu>

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

<http://sdeportal.org/>

**Handouts:** Focused Note-Taking Guide  
30 Top Careers  
Career Research Assignment



## Follow up action items.

Follow up email to speakers thanking them for their time.

Guest speaker feedback from staff.



# Ideas for speakers.

## SAN DIEGO REGION PRIORITY SECTORS





## Ideas for speakers.

Local agencies: fire, police (SRO contact), EMT, Coast Guard, lifeguard  
Military (High School ROTC connection)

Medical Center/Technicians

Agriculture

High School Athletic Trainer

Chefs/ Pastry Chefs

Community College contacts

Pilots

Veterinary careers

Personal trainers, physical fitness

business owners

Local business, restaurants

Union workers

Engineers


Mechanics- local

dealerships

District personnel- finance, communications, etc

Biotech

Parks & Recreation



“Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do.”

Oprah Winfrey



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Thank you for attending!  
Questions?

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