

## KNOWLEDGE BRIEF *Summary*

# Postsecondary Engagement for Successfully Transitioning Students to College

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Preparing students for successful transition to postsecondary education involves creating opportunities for students to learn about college. Students want to know: Why should I go to college? How is college going to help me earn more money? What services and supports are available if I am the first in my family to go to college or if I can't afford college? What kinds of programs or pathways can I choose from? What if I don't want to pursue a degree? How is college different from high school? How do I find groups that can help me feel like I belong? How do I get into college? Where do I begin?

While some students can turn to a parent or guardian for guidance, not all students can. In fact, college-going is more complicated than ever for all students and families. Postsecondary engagement helps to address equity gaps in college enrollment and increase sense of belonging for students. Educators can design activities and offer opportunities for students to learn information about what colleges offer, to explore their interests and careers, to gain exposure and experiences about what college is like, and to develop skills that will contribute to their postsecondary success. A partnership between the high school or school district and the local community college can ensure that students and families are afforded a myriad of postsecondary engagement opportunities designed to support students to get to college. At the same time, colleges benefit by attracting students to enroll.

This one-page summary accompanies the 10-page knowledge brief, which provides useful information about postsecondary engagement practices for supporting students to successfully transition to college. Following are the key topics:

- Why it's important that K-12 educators, administrators, and counselors intentionally adopt and implement postsecondary engagement strategies as an equity practice
- Key knowledge and skills that students need to successfully transition to college
- Types of postsecondary engagement strategies, from least intensive to most intensive, for providing opportunities to learn college-going knowledge and skills, along with examples, advantages and disadvantages of each type
- Guiding principles and proven practices for planning and implementing postsecondary engagement opportunities culled from research and practitioners in the San Diego-Imperial region
- Descriptive cases of postsecondary engagement in the region
- Helpful guides featuring step-by-step plans, timelines, and itineraries for planning postsecondary engagement events