

College Talk Indicators

Effective schools use the following techniques and opportunities to engage students in college-going discussion and activities.

Adapted from Pat McDonough's Nine Elements (UCLA) and SJUSD/CSUSJ GEAR UP Rubric

1. All teachers teach with the assumption that all students can and will go to college.
2. U.S. Map displayed prominently indicating where the school faculty and staff went to college and high school graduates went to college.
3. Faculty/Staff display their diplomas in their classroom. One counselor even has a picture of the car she owned at the time, next to each corresponding degree.
4. Faculty/staff display a sign which states "Mr./Mrs....went to...If you have any questions about this school, come and ask me."
5. Display college banners and college information such as exam dates and deadlines, financial aid information and deadlines, etc.
6. Have a well advertised and easily accessible college career center or college space where students can access information and materials.
7. For elementary students, pictures can be taken of them in a cap and gown and display them as the "Class of...", the year they would be expected to graduate from a four-year university.
8. Name each classroom after a specific college or displaying it's banner, information, etc. inside that classroom.
9. Designate a specific day, maybe during homecoming week or during a month where college is being emphasized, where everyone wears college gear.
10. Host a college/college fair and invite students and their families.
11. Host a Financial Aid Completion Night or Celebration.
12. Ask College & Career Readiness experts to be present at Parent/Teacher Conferences, College Planning Nights, at your senior College Decision Day that geared toward grades 6-11, or just during the school day.
13. Display that your school is a "College-Going Community" either on a banner and/or school website.