

Good Advising: Helping Students Find Their Strengths, Interests, and Paths to Careers and Postsecondary Study

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Meandering Toward Graduation

- Despite the rhetoric around college and career readiness for all students, just 8 percent of high school graduates complete a full college- and rigorous career-preparatory curriculum.
- Nearly half of graduates complete neither a college- nor career-ready course sequence.
- Preparing more students for college and careers requires significant change to school structures, culture, and instruction.

What can educators do?

- **Conduct transcript analysis**
- **Refine master schedules**
- **Define teacher planning**
- **Implement career pathways**

Counseling for Careers and Postsecondary Studies...

an organized, structured effort that connects students to future education and career goals; while providing a set of learning experiences that enables students to create a meaningful vision for a successful future and the program of study for achieving that vision.

1. Use assignments to enable student to discover the connection between course work and future opportunities.

Answering those age old questions...

“Why do I have to take this course?”

“When am I ever going to use this?”

ASSIGNMENTS MATTER!

2. Create a student advisement system

- I. Every student is assigned an adult advisor
- II. A process to aid students in developing self-awareness, achieving academic success, education and career awareness, and decision-making skills
- III. A systemic approach to providing ALL students with the knowledge and skills to make wise decisions about his/her education and career
- IV. A process to help each student improve his/her chances for success

3. Prepare students to make a successful transition

- Middle to High School
- High School to Postsecondary
- Postsecondary to Career

4. Create a personalized education and career plans for each student

- A working document that maximizes student achievement by having students set and accomplish goals beginning no later than middle school
- Assessment of interests, aptitudes, learning styles, and personality types multiple times throughout middle and high school
- Understand how this information leads to high school academic achievement and wise student choices relating to programs of study and postsecondary education and training.
- MUST be student driven yet maintained by school professionals who will work cooperatively with students and parents

5. Design a personalized program of study

Provides students a clear format to discover:

- relevance of academic coursework
- connections between student interests and high skill/high demand/high wage career options
- qualifications for the necessary postsecondary education and training
- the needed credentials for a successful career
- various related career opportunities

6. Develop opportunities for students to explore careers and education programs of study

- Guest Speakers
- Field trips to business and industry
- Job Shadowing
- Career and College Fairs
- College visits
- Mentoring and/or Tutoring
- Student Activities with Labor Market Information
- Career and Technical Student Organizations
- Work-based Learning Experiences (Practicums, Internships, Apprenticeships)

7. Make parents and the community a partner in a student's career and education planning

Parent and Community Partnerships are...

- intentional efforts to create and sustain positive relationships among schools/the school district and a formal and/or informal entity, in order to work toward a common goal.
- partnerships may involve the sharing of facilities and equipment; collaborative fund raising and/or grant funding; mentoring/tutoring; implementation and/or evaluation of programs or events; opportunities for community service, internships, jobs, enrichment of curriculum, shared celebrations, recognition, field trips; recourses and advice.