

# College-Going Culture Assessment

This assessment has been adapted from College For West Virginia.

Instructions: Use this assessment to analyze and start a discussion about the college-going culture in your school. For each statement, write a score (1-3) for your school using the following scale:

We are already doing this: 3

We could do this easily with a little effort: 2

This would require a major change and a lot of time: 1

## Clear Expectations

All students are expected to pursue some form of postsecondary education and that expectation is conveyed clearly with support from school personnel.

Teachers generally believe that all students can achieve in higher academic level classes when the appropriate strategies and support structures are put into place.

## Information and Resources

Messaging relaying the importance of planning for high school, postsecondary education, and a career is visible throughout the school or through communications channels (school announcements, websites, etc.)

The school is displaying information regarding Tennessee's free college and career planning resources available on CollegeforTN.org.

## College Connections

College and university staff members visit the school at least a few times a year.

Your school hosts at least one college/career event or enrichment activity a year (ex- college visits, career fairs, alumni presentations).

## Faculty Involvement

Career and college exploration activities are integrated into regular coursework. For example, students research and write about career options during English or compute the cost of attending college in math.

To your **educators, administrators, and staff**, the term "college" means any education and training after high school, including certificate programs, career and technical programs, apprenticeships, two-year degree programs, four-year degree programs, or military training.

## Family & Community Involvement

\_\_\_ Family college planning events aimed at helping students and families plan for high school, college, and a career occur at least twice per year, outside of regular school hours.

\_\_\_ Your school is a welcoming environment where family members are encouraged to visit and discuss their child's education.

\_\_\_ Community leaders are invited to share their college and career experiences with students or to mentor students.

\_\_\_ Recent alumni return to your school to share their college experiences and advice.

\_\_\_ Community organizations and businesses post information about college or encourage students to pursue postsecondary opportunities.

\_\_\_ To your **students and parents**, the term "college" means any education and training after high school, including certificate programs, career and technical programs, apprenticeships, two-year degree programs, four-year degree programs, or military training.

## College Talk

\_\_\_ Teachers include visual cues in their classrooms to encourage discussions about their college experience with their students. Examples include posting information about their alma mater or hanging copies of their college degree.

\_\_\_ Educators, administrators, and staff encourage and counsel all students about postsecondary opportunities and the importance of pursuing education and training beyond high school.

\_\_\_ College pennants and posters are visible in classrooms, halls, and common areas.

## Curriculum

\_\_\_ Academics are recognized as the number one priority in your school and academic achievement is considered a universal point of pride.

\_\_\_ All students are encouraged to challenge themselves academically and take rigorous course work. All students are counseled on the importance of taking rigorous classes in middle school (and later, in high school) to prepare for postsecondary education.

\_\_\_ Student work is highly visible in school and there are opportunities to showcase a wide variety of learning experiences.

## Articulation

\_\_\_ College and university faculty collaborate with teachers at your school.

\_\_\_ Counselors at your school have a close working relationship with their counterparts at area elementary, middle, and high schools.

# College Going Culture Assessment-Reflection

Score Total:\_\_\_\_

22-36 Beginner

37-52 Intermediate

53-66 Advanced

Discussion Questions:

In what areas is your school community excelling?

In what areas could you improve?

What can you, as an individual, do to enhance your school's college-going culture?