

Definition of College-Going Culture

It is easy to talk about the concept of a college-going culture in the abstract, but what does it actually look like in a school? The LA Unified School District defines a college-going culture as existing in a school when the following elements are present:

- **Clear Expectations**- the explicit goal of preparing students for a full range of postsecondary options is clearly defined; the school community believes and expects that all students can earn a postsecondary credential and is relentlessly focused on preparing students to achieve their future goals.
- **Information and Resources**- students have access to information and resources related to college.
- **College Connections**- college-related activities and academic enrichment programs raise awareness of and build aspirations towards college; local colleges work in partnership with secondary schools to build awareness; connections are drawn between students' goals and college and career pathways for achieving those goals.
- **Faculty Involvement**- faculty integrate college and career information into regular classroom activities.
- **Family & Community Involvement**- family members have opportunities to gain knowledge about the college planning process; community members are actively involved, share their college and career experiences, and support your school's efforts to help students prepare for college.
- **College Talk**- Clear and frequent communication occurs between and among students, counselors, teachers, and all staff members about what it takes to get to college.
- **Curriculum**- the school makes a commitment to provide the instruction necessary for every student to be prepared to meet grade level standards, every year and in every classroom.
- **Articulation**- students have a seamless experience where a college message is communicated from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary.