

College-Going Culture Assessment



How does your school match up? How can you enhance your college-going culture within your school?

For each statement, write a score (1-3) for your school using the following scale:

Strongly Agree= 3 Agree= 2 Not Yet= 1

Rigor- increase the academic performance and preparation

- _____ All students are expected to pursue some form of postsecondary education and that expectation is conveyed clearly with support from school personnel.
- _____ All students have been directly taught what their TN Ready scores and ACT scores communicate about their college readiness.
- _____ Teachers generally believe that all students can achieve in higher academic level classes when the appropriate strategies and support structures are put into place.

Reach Higher- Enhance a College-Going Culture

- _____ Teachers, support staff, and leadership all communicate to students the same expectation that all students can and should go to college (TCAT, Community College, or University.)
- _____ Students are aware of the steps required to apply, enroll, and pay for college.
- _____ Teachers routinely teach engaging lessons with a college and career focus and seek to inspire students to pursue college.

Relevance- Students connect career goals with educational requirements

- _____ Teachers connect potential careers with standards and connect educational pathways to future careers.
- _____ Career fairs, guest speakers, and field trips expand students' understanding of meaningful careers and the educational pathways to get there.
- _____ Career and college exploration activities are integrated into regular coursework. For example, students research and write

Relationships- Foster meaningful relationships

- _____ Families are included at our school in the way that we talk about students' future pathways.
- _____ Students feel supported by faculty, as demonstrated by students having more than one trusted adult in the school building.
- _____ Engaging all families in order to build positive student relationships is important.

College Going Culture Assessment-Continued

Raise Awareness- Increase families' awareness about college and career

- _____ Our school hosts family college planning events aimed at helping students and families plan for high school, college, and a career.
- _____ Our 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.

Reinforce Action- Increase graduation rates and college-enrollment

- _____ 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.
- _____ 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.
- _____ 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 to prepare for postsecondary education.
- _____ Student work is highly visible in school and there are opportunities to showcase a wide variety of learning experiences.

Score Total

0 - 26 = Room for Growth

27- 44 = Emerging College-Going Culture

45 - 54 = College and Career Ready School!