Creating a College Going Culture

Essentials of Professional Development
Alexandria City Public Schools
March 10, 2017
“...Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit...”

--Jawaharlal Nehru
Ice Breaker

- YOU
- BEST PRACTICES
- NON-NEGOTIABLES
The Rules

☐ Write down one great practice that you either do at your school or learned about from another one that you think should be replicated everywhere.

☐ In 3 minutes you will share with a partner and then we will take several share outs.
Defining
Framing
Applying
Defining College Going Culture...

**College-going culture** refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and their families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in post-secondary education.
Defining College Going Culture...

Three necessary elements are:

1. Students learn about options for their future, careers and the education they require, as early as elementary school, with a specific focus beginning in middle school.

2. Schools convey the expectation that all students can prepare for the opportunity to attend and be successful in post-secondary education.

3. Schools, families, and communities give students the same message of high expectations for their future.
Defining College Going Culture...

- In addition to college-going, the broad goal is for students to believe they can have a great future, and that they can plan and prepare for many options leading to a creative and productive life after high school.
Defining College Going Culture...

- Students may think they know what they want, but we know their interests and career aspirations may and most likely will change, and **they need to be prepared for those possibilities**. Students need to know that there are many paths they can take to have a successful life journey.
Framing College Going Culture...

- Expectations
- Engagement
- Exposure
College Going Culture: The 3Es

- Expectations
- Engagement
- Exposure
Expectations

- High-bar
- Assets & Strengths
- Consistent
Expectations – Assets & Strengths

- An absolute belief that **every person has potential** and it is their unique strengths and capabilities that will determine their evolving story as well as define who they are - not their limitations.

- What we focus on becomes one’s reality – **focus on strength, not labels – seeing challenges as capacity fostering** (not something to avoid) creates hope and optimism.

- The **language we use creates our reality** – both for us and the students and families we serve.
Expectations – Assets & Strengths

- Belief that change is inevitable – all individuals have the urge to succeed, to explore the world around them and to make themselves useful to others and their communities.

- Positive change occurs in the context of authentic relationships – students and families need to know someone cares and will be there unconditionally for them.

- It is important to value differences and the essential need to collaborate – effective change is a collaborative, inclusive and participatory process.
Engagement

- Students
- Families
- Staff
- Community
Engagement – Stakeholders

- Clarity of Purpose
- Commitment
- Hospitality
- Respect
- Accessibility
- Communication
Engagement – Stakeholders

- Evidence
- Flexibility & Responsiveness
- Timeliness
- Inclusiveness
- Collaboration
- Continuous Learning
Exposure

- Messaging (visual, verbal)
- Presentations & Workshops
- Enrichment Experiences
Exposure – Enrichment Experiences

- Experiences that directly impact a student’s ability to understand and achieve key milestones associated with college awareness, access, search, selection, transition and completion
Applying College Going Culture...

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
What Does This Mean To Your Practice?
Applying College Going Culture...

Break Out Activity – ES, MS, HS:

- Current Practice
  - Successes
  - Challenges
Applying College Going Culture...

Break Out Activity – ES, MS, HS:

- Future Ideas
  - Why?
  - What can be implemented within the next 30 - 45 days?
Q & A
Thank YOU

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