The Path to College and Career

Why does it matter?

- “A high school diploma is just the start – students need education and training beyond high school to have access to America’s middle class,” Jean-Claude, 9/30/11
- Students with concrete plans are more likely not only to graduate from high school but also to enroll in postsecondary education. 1 74.4% of Class of 2009 seniors who have a “concrete plan” enrolled in college, 20% higher than the Class of 2009 average 
- Four of every 10 new college students, including half of those at two-year institutions, take remedial courses, and many employers comment on the inadequate preparation of high school graduates
- Nearly 86% of Class of 2011 seniors indicated that their high school was helpful in preparing them to understand the steps to get into college. Only 67% of seniors indicated that their high school was helpful in preparing them to understand the steps to get a job

Suggested Roles within your School

- Counselors: Expose students to various paths to college and career. Support student planning, esp. through the Individual Learning Plans (ILPs)
- Coaches: Expose students to various paths to college and career. Support student planning. Help students execute on plan
- Teachers: Collaborate with counseling team to expose and support students in college and career planning
- Principals and APs: Encourage time for collaboration. Set clear school-wide goals. Provide resources to meet those goals

Ready-to-Use Materials

Visit www.chooseyourfuture.org/staff/toolkit/path-college-and-career to view and download most materials

- Put Your Best Foot Forward. College and Career.ppt (Pathways to College and Career, Erin Linville) - Presentation for students, geared toward helping them think through the personal characteristics, experiences, and achievements, required for college and career. Touches on ILP
- College Planning Night.ppt (Northside College Prep Counseling Team, submitted by Patrick Tassoni) - A presentation for juniors on the college planning process, ranging from standardized tests to what colleges look for to how to find a college that is a good fit for you
- Grade 11 University Planning Night.ppt (Simeon Career Academy, Deborah Beasley) - A PowerPoint presentation for juniors and their parents, which introduces the key parts of the college planning and application process
- CPS alum College and Career videos - College students and recent grads share their college and career journey. http://vimeo.com/album/1733321
- College Planning 101.ppt (submitted by CVCA) – A ppt that walks students through the college planning and application process (Continued on next slide)

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- Selecting and Applying for Colleges_10th 11th 12th grades.ppt (CVCA, Carole Jacobs) - A comprehensive ppt on the college selection and application decisions, which includes why college, types of colleges, associated jobs, criteria to consider, making the decision, and the timelines of activities
- 10th Grade College Readiness Timeline_Kelvyn Park.pdf (Kelvyn Park, Francisco Rios) - Checklist for sophomores by season
- 11th Grade College Readiness Timeline_Kelvyn Park.pdf (Kelvyn Park, Francisco Rios) - Checklist for juniors by season
- 12th Grade College Readiness Timeline_Kelvyn Park.pdf (Kelvyn Park, Francisco Rios) - Checklist for seniors by season
- What’s it Worth? (Georgetown University, submitted by Gloria Purifoy and Maria Bucio) - Information, reports, webinars, and workshop materials to help students assess if the investment in a certain degree/training “pays off” (http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/)
- College Planning.ppt (After School Matters; original owner unknown, but likely within CPS, submitted by Mark Pristop) - This presentation for students covers everything from attending college fairs to exploring colleges to financial aid
- Five Week Series_Choose Your Future Evaluation.doc (Kennedy, Joleen Fortier) - An evaluation for a five-week series, using Choose Your Future, that introduces students to Careers and Cost of Living (week 1), College Match and Application (week 2), Financial Aid and Scholarships (week 3), Resumes and Interviews (week 4), and allows students computer time (week 5). Relevant PowerPoint presentations are available
- Five Week Series_Choose Your Future_Pre and Post Tests.doc (Kennedy, Joleen Fortier) - Pre- and post-tests to access student knowledge
- Choosing a Career or Major in the Arts.ppt (After School Matters; original owner unknown, but likely within CPS, submitted by Mark Pristop) - A presentation of important information for students who are considering a major and/or career in the arts
- The Road Map (CTE, Student Employability Resources) - A goal setting and prioritization workshop that can serve as the foundation of a college application or resume writing - http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/cte/staff/resources/student-employability-resources
- Planning your Postsecondary Path.doc (After School Matters, Mark Pristop) - Four-year timeline to guide students to being college and career ready
- Making Wise Choices. College and Career for Elementary Students.ppt (Pathways to College and Career, Erin Linville) - Five steps elementary students can take today to pave the way for college and career tomorrow
- College Programs by Grade.doc (Highland Park, Aliza Gilbert) - Highland Park’s schedule of college by grade level for students and parents
- ILP Who Are You and Goal Setting guidance lesson (Choose Your Future) - 9th grade goal setting guidance lesson
- CVCA College-Bound Student-Athlete.ppt (CVCA, Carole Jacobs and Jack Renkens) - A PowerPoint presentation that helps student athletes understand the realities of college recruiting for sports
- Freshman Mentoring Program Overview.doc (Naperville Central HS, submitted by Kaitlyn Lennox, Counselor Intern at Sullivan) – 3-page overview of how to implement a mentoring program that connects high-performing seniors with freshman in need of mentorship. Implemented at Naperville
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### Effective Practices – The Fundamentals

1. **Ensure that counselors spend 25-35% of their time on individual student planning**
   - a. 25-35% of a counselor’s time should be spent on individual student planning (American School Counselor Association, ASCA, model)
   - b. This may require the counseling team and school administration working together to identify how to distribute some “non-counseling” work to people other than counselors. Talk to the K-12 Counseling and Advising department for advice, if needed

2. **Encourage/Require students create and update four-year Individual Learning Plan (ILP), based on their career and educational interests/goals**
   - a. An ILP is a formalized plan and process that involves students setting goals based on personal, academic, and career interests, beginning in 9th grade in continuing throughout high school with the close support of adult mentors that include parents, counselors, coaches, and teachers (Adapted from the New Jersey Department of Education)
   - b. ILPs are required for the Class of 2015, though students in preceding classes are highly encouraged to develop an ILP as well
   - c. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) will be able to transfer their IEP goals into their ILP portfolio
   - d. Students can complete many ILP components in Advisory, Seminars, Freshman Connection or by partnering with core subject teachers

3. **Encourage students to discuss their ILPs and future plans with trusted adults in their life**

4. **Refer students to high school and college planning timelines**
   - a. See Ready to Use Materials and Internal and External Resources sections for more suggestions

5. **Connect the dots for students. Help students understand how what they learn today ties into their future plans**

6. **Encourage students to explore their college and career interests by talking with trusted adults and participating in college and career activities, like job shadowing, college fairs, and more**
   - a. Refer to toolkits throughout the College and Career Toolkit for more information and suggestions

### Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Assuming that there is one path or a best path to college and career

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4. Individual Learning Plan presentation for CAOs and Principals_May 2011
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Where to Find</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coaches and Counselors</td>
<td>Resource to support students on their journey to college and career</td>
<td>In your school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Specialists</td>
<td>Resource to support schools and students in college and career</td>
<td>In your Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to College and Career: K-12</td>
<td>CPS’ K-12 counseling and advising department</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ilp@cps.k12.il.us">ilp@cps.k12.il.us</a> 773.553.2108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling and Advising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Your Future</td>
<td>Staff Resources on WNI and ILP, including memos, templates, and presentations</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/support-staff/ilp-wni-resources">http://www.chooseyourfuture.org/support-staff/ilp-wni-resources</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>College Planning Checklist by Grade Level</td>
<td><a href="http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist.html">http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium on Chicago School Research – Freshman Year: The Make it or Break it Year</td>
<td>A research article on the importance of Freshman Year</td>
<td><a href="http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/downloads/5788whatmatters-studentfinal.pdf">http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/downloads/5788whatmatters-studentfinal.pdf</a></td>
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## Note of Appreciation

Thanks to the following people for helping develop this toolkit: Francisco Rios (Kelvyn Park, Coach), Gloria Purifoy (Pathways to College and Career, College and Career Specialist), Maria Bucio (Pathways to College and Career, College and Career Specialist), Joleen Fortier (Kennedy, Counselor), Career and Technical Education Staff, Kaitlyn Lennox (Sullivan, Counselor Intern), Deborah Beasley (Simeon Career Academy, Counselor), Carole Jacobs (CVCA, Coach), Northside College Prep Counseling Team (Marina Medina, Patrick Tassoni, Angela Lekkas, Alexander Hughes, Erin Kato, Sonia Fernandez), Suraj Patel (Pathways to College and Career)
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### What does it mean at every grade level?

#### Grade 9
- Students complete these aspects of the ILP: Short-term goals, EXPLORE, Your Plan of Study, Interest Profiler, and Saved Careers. Optional aspects include: Activities, Awards, Distinctions, Honors, and 9th Grade Reflection.
- Fall: Host group guidance sessions or workshops related to college and career, that help students think and plan now to take the steps necessary to be successful.
- Feb: Counselors review graduation requirements with students and begin to program students for next year’s classes.

#### Grade 10
- Students complete these aspects of the ILP: college and career planner, resume builder, and personality and learning style assessment.
- Fall: Host group guidance sessions or workshops related to college and career, that help students think and plan now to take the steps necessary to be successful.
- Feb: Counselors review graduation requirements with students and begin to program students for next year’s classes.

#### Grade 11
- Students complete these aspects of the ILP: standardized test prep, college choice research, and scholarship search.
- Fall: Host group guidance sessions or workshops related to college and career, that help students focus on executing and refining the plan they developed in 9th and 10th grade.
- Dec/Jan: Counselors and Coaches plan a Junior Assembly to review 2nd semester guidance calendar or activities and think ahead to senior year.
- Feb: Counselors review graduation requirements with students and begin to program students for next year’s classes.

#### Grade 12
- Students complete these aspects of the ILP: college, financial aid, scholarship, and/or job application.
- Fall: Host group guidance sessions or workshops related to college and career, that help students focus on executing and refining the plan they developed in 9th and 10th grade.
- Students should alert Counselors and Coaches to college acceptances, which are hopefully posted somewhere in the school.
- Dec/Jan: Counselors and Coaches plan a Senior Assembly to review 2nd semester guidance calendar or activities and address potential cases of “senioritis”.

Note: Many grade level activities are cumulative.