

Discussion Document of Conley's Key Principles of College and Career Readiness

Principle	Reflection
<p>1. Create and maintain a college-going culture in the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make college and career readiness a key schoolwide goal • Signal to students that the school is about preparing students for postsecondary success, not just admission • Set expectations for all students to be college and career ready • Send the message that the goal of high school is college and career readiness in numerous symbolic and substantive ways, and • Encourage students to set a goal of going on to college or postsecondary training in some form. 	
<p>2. Create a core academic program that is aligned with and leads to college readiness by the end of 12th Grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus the core academic program on college readiness • Review and revise syllabi to ensure course alignment with college and career readiness standards, and • Identify how the instructional program as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops key cognitive strategies • focuses on key content • develops academic behaviors • presents key college knowledge. 	
<p>3. Teach key self-management skills and expect students to use them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have student set goals and gauge completion of them • Short-term goals for coursework • Medium-term for classes • Longer-term goals for postsecondary plans and aspirations • Provide students with tools for managing assignments and due dates • Agree on common methods to take notes, and • Have all students participate in study groups each academic term. 	
<p>4. Make college real by preparing students for the complexity of applying to college and making the transition successfully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize students with college and the application process each successive year • Instruct all students and parents on the major timelines and requirements for college applications and financial aid • Consider requiring all students to complete a college application • Provide extra support to students who would be first in their family to attend college, and • Understand that college eligibility is not the same as college readiness. 	

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<p>5. Create assignments and grading policies in high school that more closely approximate college expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect students to complete at least some homework without submitting it for points or a grade • Give complex assignments that require independent work, team work, or study groups to complete • Be cautious granting extra credit, limiting it to additional academic opportunities, not substitute activities • Develop assignments that infuse college-type expectations into courses, and • High quantity of writing, higher grading criteria, more persistence, more individual initiative required. 	
<p>6. Make the senior year meaningful and challenging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all students have a full, academically challenging schedule their senior year that includes math and writing, • Encourage or expect all students to have college-like experiences through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus visits • Dual enrollment courses • Advanced Placement courses • Senior seminars • Administer a college placement test early in the senior year, and • Require a senior project judged against college readiness criteria. 	
<p>7. Build partnerships with and connections to postsecondary programs and institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make personal connections with local postsecondary administrators and faculty • Explore ways for high school and college faculty to coordinate and align their expectations and teaching strategies • Take advantage of physical proximity to any postsecondary institution by offering dual enrollment opportunities, and • Collect data on student performance in college to determine how well your students are succeeding in entry-level courses. 	

Conley, D. T. (2010). *College and career ready: helping all students succeed beyond high school*. Retrieved February 5, 2011, from https://epiconline.org/files/pdf/20110228_ASU.pdf