

**TITLE:** College Awareness Experiences for Elementary Students During the Annual LAUSD College Month in October

**NUMBER:** REF-3971.9

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**ROUTING**

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Region Administrators  
Region Counseling Coordinators  
Elementary School Principals  
Assistant Principals  
Coordinators  
Teachers

**DATE:** August 28, 2023

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this reference guide is to provide information to support LAUSD’s annual College Awareness Month in October and support a year-round college-going culture.

LAUSD students come from a wide variety of cultural, economic, ethnic, linguistic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. It is essential that all elementary schools prepare our diverse students for postsecondary careers and college opportunities.

This reference guide is in alignment to the following strategies from “Ready for the World: Los Angeles Unified School District 2022-26 Strategic Plan” (Pillar 1: Academic Excellence).

- 1D.S5: Engage students and families at all levels, beginning in early grades, in college and career experiences and promotion of post-secondary options
- 1D.S7: Ensure all students develop college knowledge and get support for planning, applying, and transitioning to college, including advisement on financial aid options

**MAJOR CHANGES:** This replaces REF-3971.8, *College Awareness Experiences for Elementary Students During the Annual LAUSD College Month in October*, dated October 11, 2021. Instructional materials have been updated in the Schoology group “College and Career Readiness Lessons” (N9VZB-GQFRR).

**INSTRUCTIONS:** LAUSD is committed to providing all students (pre-kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) with a rigorous academic program that prepares them for college and a career. This includes students enrolled in special education, English Learner (EL) and Standard English Learner (SEL) programs. The promotion of a Districtwide college-going culture will support students to be aware and ready to enter their choice of

postsecondary options. Therefore, LAUSD is encouraging all students to participate in college and career awareness activities and experiences.

## **I. COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE**

- A. A college-going culture provides the environment, attitudes and practices in schools that create access to postsecondary education. Even more important is helping students understand they have opportunities and paths available to them that lead to a successful adult life.

In partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles, LAUSD identified the following principles of a college-going culture. A college-going culture exists when the following elements are present on all school campuses, in classrooms and school offices:

1. College Talk – clear communication about what it takes to get to college
2. Clear Expectations – the explicit goals of preparing students for a full range of post-secondary options is clearly defined
3. Information and Resources – students have access to information and resources related to college
4. Curriculum – school makes a commitment to provide the resources necessary for every student to be prepared to meet grade level standards, every year in every classroom
5. Faculty Involvement – faculty integrates college information into regular classroom activities
6. Family Involvement – family members must have the opportunities to gain knowledge about the college planning process
7. College Partnerships – college-related activities and academic enrichment programs raise awareness of and aspirations toward college

To help administrators and staff develop a college-going culture at their school site, “Additional College and Career Awareness Activities for Elementary School Students” is included (Attachment A).

## **II. COLLEGE AND CAREER ACTIVITIES**

- A. Every elementary school will plan college and career awareness experiences to be integrated into the academic program within the school day for all students. To facilitate school planning, the Division of Instruction has developed grade-level college and career awareness activities to allow students opportunities for self-discovery and postsecondary planning. These materials can be found in the Schoology group “College and Career Readiness Lessons” (N9VZB-GQFRR).

**RELATED  
RESOURCES:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** Attachment A – Additional College and Career Awareness Activities for Elementary School Students

**ASSISTANCE:** For assistance or further information, please contact A-G Intervention and Support at 213-241-5218.

## Los Angeles Unified School District

### Additional College and Career Awareness Activities for Elementary School Students

#### Bulletin Boards – Hallway and Door Decor

- Create a bulletin board that displays a card with each teacher's name and the college they attended, arranged around a map of the United States. Identify with pins and string the location of each college
- Each classroom can adopt a college and decorate their classroom door in the college colors, highlighting information about their college
- Create college banners and pennants to display
- Create a bulletin board of students' college and career aspirations
- Create a "Wall of Fame" displaying former students and the colleges they attended

#### Career Day

- Volunteer parents and community members come to the school to share information on their jobs and careers and the education, skills and experience requirements. Students are given the opportunity to make a connection between their academic pursuits and future professional endeavors
- Students backwards-map the educational requirements of specific careers

#### College and Career Traits and Dispositions

- Introduce the traits, attributes and dispositions that indicate college and career readiness
- Have students identify behaviors and attitudes that are associated with college and career readiness
- Have students identify their own attributes that demonstrate college and career readiness
- Students can create a portfolio demonstrating the traits and attributes of college and career readiness

#### College Spirit Day

- College T-shirt Day – students and staff might wear college T-shirts and paraphernalia, and have conversations with students about college and career readiness traits and dispositions
- Students identify and match mascots to their correct college, and possibly have a local college mascot visit the school and conduct a rally with students

#### Interview

- Assign students to interview someone in the school community to better understand paths that lead to college or career. To prepare for the assignment, students should brainstorm and prepare questions to ask. Information from interviews may be used for an oral presentation or writing assignment.

#### Locate Colleges

- Give pairs of students an outline map of the United States. Have students identify at least one college or university for each state other than state colleges
- Ask students to use a map of their city and to plot out the route to three colleges or universities in the area

#### Mentors

- College students or recent graduates volunteer to act as mentors and role models, to encourage and support students' social-emotional and academic growth

#### Share Your College Experience

- Teachers and staff share with their classes their road to college, the college/s they attended, their experiences and degrees earned