

Creating a Career and College-Going Culture is a Team Effort

Share the ASPIRE VISION

First, introduce staff to the ASPIRE vision. The goal of ASPIRE is to help students become curious, focused, engaged, prepared, and bold as they plan for their futures.



Consider Posting ASPIRE Vision posters in every classroom – [Order Posters](https://oregonstudentaid.gov/resources/aspire-publications/) at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/resources/aspire-publications/>

Ways to Implement ASPIRE Awareness

Each ASPIRE school is encouraged to integrate ASPIRE vision/goals into their school culture. Creating this culture is not the job or role of one person in the building, staff should be encouraged to work together to fulfill the ASPIRE vision and create ASPIRE Awareness among students, staff, and the community. Consider the following:

ASPIRE Coordinator/Administrator share their vision with staff during a staff meeting. Talk about vision of ASPIRE, how this vision integrates into the school's strategic plan (and in collaboration with other College prep programs your school offers. Example: AVID). Explain the importance of reaching ALL students through ASPIRE's creation of a career and college-going culture.

- Regular (monthly/quarterly) ASPIRE/CCR updates/mini CCR trainings during staff meetings so teachers/staff stay connected to the work that is going on to support students with future planning (upcoming CCR educational family events, college visits, career/college activities/seminars, etc.)

Create staff signs to share college/career pathways of staff members: Consider creating signs for each staff member that includes their name, college attended, military branch served (if applicable), favorite class in HS, etc. Resource: ASPIRE "I Went to..." ([Word Doc](#) or [Fillable PDF](#))

Create opportunities for Career/College talk with students – This may be integrated career and college lessons in advisory classes, integration of career presentations in core classes, staff talking about their own experiences (first jobs, college/military/apprenticeship experiences, etc.

Offer CCR Professional Development – Increase opportunities for school staff to learn more information related to career/college pathways. PD could provide general information about site's CCR resources (where to send students for help), basics about financial aid and college admissions, career pathways, and guidance on how to write good recommendation letters are all great topics to consider.

Create Career/College Culture Schoolwide –

- **Visual displays:** Posters, pennants, career boards to help students visualize future opportunities for career/college.
- **College/Career Day/Week:** Create schoolwide college and/or career week activities (See [College/Career Week Bundle](#) for ideas:
 - ASPIRE Question of the Day – Creates college talk/conversation in the classroom.
 - College and Career Spirit Dress Up Days – Fun activities that spark creative ways to talk about career and college readiness.
 - College and Career Readiness (CCR) Advisory/Class Competitions – Builds schoolwide CCR awareness and excitement related to career and college opportunities.
 - Career/College Readiness Student/Family Events - Host career and college events/activities/workshops for students/family.
 - Career/Industry Focused CCR Activities/Events – Provide career and industry focused events, activities, and presentations to provide access to information that relates to workforce and industry preparedness.
- **Educational CCR Events:** Family nights - [ASPIRE/OSAC Outreach events](#) or create your own

ASPIRE Mentor Program – Create opportunity for students to receive 1:1 and/or group mentoring. This can be done by building a mentor program using staff members or volunteers from the community who talk, discuss options, and/or provide support as students are planning their future plans or encouraging academic/preparation or HS student success (specific to MS).

Brainstorm with your school/organization's staff to create additional ways to support career and college education/readiness.