

Introduction:

ASPIRE helps educate Oregon students to become career and college ready. ASPIRE offers education, resources, and/or mentoring opportunities for all students. The goal is to create opportunities for students to become confident, ready, and bold in the pursuit of their dreams.

ASPIRE looks forward to receiving your application.

Contact Information:

Please list the contact information for your site.

Site name:

Contact name:

Contact email:

ASPIRE MODELS (0 points)

ASPIRE offers flexible program models. Please review the programs models below and then select the program model that best fits your needs.

Mentor Program

Supports student success with staff, community mentors or near peer mentors. Mentors meet with students 1:1 or in small groups.

Career and College Readiness (CCR) Program

Offers education, resources, and assistance completing career and college preparatory activities.

Hybrid Program

Combines a Mentor Program and a CCR Program.

Q 1- Which ASPIRE model best describes the program you wish to create at your site?

Select one:

Please continue to the next section: Site Information

SITE INFORMATION (5 points)

This section provides information about your site and the students you serve. The support of your administration and selection of the ASPIRE Coordinator is important. Explain your ASPIRE Coordinator's skills and knowledge as it relates to career and college readiness (CCR) to help us determine the level of support your coordinator will need from ASPIRE.

Q 2- What is the total student enrollment at your site?

Q 3- What are your organization's demographics? Who do you serve? Please be specific.

(Note: MS and HS sites attach your school's At-a-Glance School and District Profile from the Oregon Department of Education). <https://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>.)

Q 4- Is the staff selected for the ASPIRE coordinator position a current employee?

Q 5- If yes, what other role(s) do they hold in the site? If no, do they have a current connection to your site?

Q 6- Describe the staff member's relevant experience including career and/or college counseling?

Q 7- Upon acceptance what action steps will the ASPIRE coordinator take to implement the ASPIRE program

Please continue to the next section: Need for ASPIRE

NEED FOR ASPIRE PROGRAM AT YOUR SITE (10 Points)

This section assists us with identifying needs and barriers to create a career and/or college ready culture. Current ASPIRE sites value the services, resources, and the positive career and college ready outcomes that ASPIRE creates.

The list below is the Top 10 benefits that have been identified as the most valuable. Please refer to this list when answering the next four questions:

- Career and college readiness (CCR) culture (advisory, classroom activities, "college" talk, integration across the site, plan for engaging all grade levels, career/college exploration classes, individual/group mentoring, programming/events, etc.)
- Exploration of career technical training and other educational opportunities for careers.
- Financial aid instruction and education: Saving for college, FAFSA/ORSAA, scholarships, grants, student loans, award letters.
- Supports first-generation and/or underserved students.
- Involves and educates families/caregivers.
- Works with community partners.
- Creates, builds, and supports a student mentor program.
- Access to updated, comprehensive materials, and resources.
- Professional development opportunities.
- Collaboration and networking with other ASPIRE sites or college access programs.

Q 8- Based on the list of services and resources above, tell us:

(a) What are your greatest barriers, needs or gaps in supporting students with CCR?

(b) How will ASPIRE assist you to bridge these barriers, needs, or gaps?

Q 9- From the Top 10 list above, what do you consider your site's strengths?

Q 10- From the Top 10 list above, what do you consider your site's areas for growth?

Q 11- In development of your ASPIRE program what obstacles might you encounter?

Please continue to the next section: Career and College Readiness

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS (25 Points)

This section identifies established programs and efforts in place for building a CCR culture.

When there are other CCR programs within a site, it is essential that the administration provides collaboration and support to support students. ASPIRE and other CCR programs in Oregon complement one another to expand your reach to students.

Q 12- What career and college readiness activities or support do you currently offer your students? (Advisory, classroom activities, "college" talk, CCR integration, plans to engage all grade levels, career/college exploration classes, individual/group mentoring, programs/events, etc.)

Q 13- Does your site have a Career Center, College Center, combined Career/College Center, CTE/CCR teacher(s), Counseling Center, other to support your CCR work? Please list.

Q 14- What CCR programs are already established at your site? (AVID: site wide or AVID elective classes, GEAR UP, College Possible, TRIO, Upward Bound, Job Corps, Youth Transition Program, YouScience, Project Youth+, other).

Q 15- What is your plan for collaboration between ASPIRE and other existing college access or career support programs at your site?

Please continue to the next section: Student and Family/Caregiver Engagement

STUDENT AND FAMILY/CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT (25 Points)

This section helps you to think of the ways you inform and engage your students and their families/caregivers.

ASPIRE is designed to serve students at all grade levels. Historically, sites have mainly focused on serving juniors and seniors with ASPIRE. Research shows it is important to begin to provide CCR education to students earlier than the final two years of high school. It is also important to encourage, educate, and engage families/caregivers to be involved in important conversations surrounding their student's future.

For this section, think about how you can use ASPIRE to serve all grade levels. Here are examples:
Middle School: Career exploration, career presentations, community service, family/caregiver nights, family/caregiver communication, group mentoring, classroom activities, and high school planning

High School: Career exploration, career presentations, encourage student involvement (clubs, activities, volunteer). Encourage community service, research the trades and CTE programs, college exploration. College visits (virtual/in person), Job shadow/informational & mock interview opportunities. Admissions Application and Financial aid education/assistance events, finalize resumes, Senior "What's your future plan?" Celebrations, etc.

Q 16- Tell us your plan for serving all students?

Q 17- How will you encourage student participation in your ASPIRE program?

Q 18- How will you specifically engage and provide support to underserved students?

Q 19- Provide us with examples on how you intend to engage and encourage ASPIRE student participation. Examples may include: Classroom CCR integration, provide career & college planning presentations for students and families/caregivers, build a 1:1, group, or peer mentoring program, host CCR or HS readiness activities during assemblies or other times during the day, and/or offer career/college field trips, etc.?

Q 20- How will you build your ASPIRE program to ensure students and families/caregivers become familiar with your site wide ASPIRE program?

Q 21- As an ASPIRE Site, how will you engage families/caregivers and educate and support students as they plan for success in high school and beyond?

Please continue to the next section: Mentoring

MENTORING (15 Points)

This section recognizes the value of mentoring relationships with adults and your students.

Since 1998 mentoring has been a key objective in the ASPIRE program. We have learned how important it is to have an adult, separate from family and site staff, connect with students about their future. Community and staff mentors extend the reach that site counselors, teachers, and other staff have to make a difference in a student's life. As ASPIRE has evolved, we now recognize and embrace the role that site staff bring to ASPIRE mentoring. However, we still believe that community mentors are important. Bringing in community mentors to help students with their future provides additional support that gives individualized attention to more students.

For this section, think about a mentoring plan that includes both community and staff mentors in your program. If you plan to be an ASPIRE CCR model site (see definition above) please skip to Question #24

Q 22- Does your site currently have a volunteer recruitment plan in place? If not, is there a plan to recruit community volunteers for ASPIRE?

Q 23- What are your most likely places to recruit future community mentors and episodic presenters (e.g., parents/caregivers, community members, civic organizations, chamber of commerce, businesses, alumni, current college students, etc.)?

Q 24- How will you engage and encourage site staff to become CCR mentors? (1:1, group, classroom)

Please continue to the next section: Sustainability and Signatures

SUSTAINABILITY (20 Points)

This section recognizes the importance of collaboration and support within your site.

We have learned that imbedding ASPIRE into your existing CCR strategic plan is a key support for all students and to become a fully sustainable ASPIRE program. It is essential that staff, teachers, and administration are aware and supportive of the ASPIRE program. As a site wide effort ASPIRE can help build and strengthen your career and college going culture through collaboration, materials and resources, partnerships, mentoring, and classroom activities to move toward a sustainable program.

Q 25- Please explain how site administration and the ASPIRE Coordinator will develop staff awareness and support for ASPIRE (e.g., staff meetings, classroom presentations, assisting with and presenting during site-wide events, etc.)?

Q 26- What is your plan to engage administration, staff, teachers, and student in creating a CCR culture?

Instructions:

1. Complete the ASPIRE Program Application.
2. High Schools and Middle Schools must attach your school’s At-a-Glance School and District Profile from the Oregon Department of Education). <https://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>.
3. Save and email application to contactus@ASPIREOregon.org.

Authorizing Signature

I certify the information in the attached application is correct and that I am authorized by the governing body of this site to submit this application to the Office of Student Access and Completion.

Site Staff (print name) *Site Staff Signature* *Date*

Staff Position