

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](#)

Ways to Implement the Vision

Each ASPIRE school is encouraged to integrate ASPIRE ideals/goals into their school culture. The methods will be unique to each school and community. 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. Consider the following:

ASPIRE Coordinator/Administrator should share 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.

- Introduce the ASPIRE Vision poster and encourage staff to post it in their classrooms/offices

Create staff signage to share college/career pathways of staff members: Consider creating signage for each staff member that includes their name, college attended, military branch served (if applicable), favorite class in HS, etc. [Use our template.](#)

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).

Create Career/College Culture Schoolwide –

- Visual displays: Posters, pennants, career boards to help students visualize future opportunities for career/college
- Schoolwide (staff and students) College Spirit and/or Career Days (dressing up in college attire, etc.)
- Family Nights – Encourage staff to participate in evening events showcasing career projects students create career/college presenters to talk about college/career planning

Career Presentations Give students the opportunity to hear from a variety of career presenters (in the classroom, during advisory, events during lunches/future focus periods in school)

Student Panels: Providing opportunities for older students to talk about student success, college/career planning, etc. Couple examples include:

- HS ASPIRE Student Panel – present/Q&A to MS ASPIRE Students (in classrooms, assembly, evening event) “What I wish I would've known going to HS?” OR “How to be successful in HS”
- HS ASPIRE Senior Panel – Present/Q&A to Freshman, sophomore and junior students

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.

Other ways to create ASPIRE Awareness - What works for you?

The ASPIRE team would like to gather ways that your school/organization creates an ASPIRE Awareness among your staff. Please connect with your ASPIRE Access Specialist to share the positive and successful ways you have implemented ASPIRE at your site.