



K-5 College Positive Curriculum & Resources

Goal:

To promote college positive behaviors among elementary school students, particularly students in grades K-5.

Elementary school is not too early to start teaching your child about career awareness. It is important for your child to become aware of how his or her schooling is connected to a successful future. While in elementary school, parents, teachers and community members can help your child:

- Discover the variety of jobs available to him or her;
- Connect what he or she is learning in school to real-world situations;
- Imagine himself or herself in an occupation; and
- Develop work-readiness skills such as working and playing with others, making decisions, solving problems and being a leader.

Many times, children choose careers based on what they see on television or what their parents do for a living. If you help your child learn about a broad range of careers, he or she will have more information when it comes time to choose a career. To help your child understand how his or her school work will be used in a future career, you can explain the skills workers use in their jobs.

Activities:

Conversation Starters:

- *Extracurricular Encouragement:* Involvement in extracurricular activities has proven to play a crucial role in child development, and has been cited as a component in increasing the achievement gap between low-income and higher-income students. Extracurricular activities provide children with the skills and knowledge to succeed later in life, and thus encouraging involvement in these activities will give children, who might not otherwise have access or knowledge of

these activities, the opportunity to compete with higher income students

- *Cite:* Unequal Childhoods, Jessica Ayoub (LansingCAN Intern)
- *College-bound Behaviors:* The gap in college attainment between low-income and higher-income children can be attributed to a lack of resources. Those resources, though, are not simply resources that exist in school, but encouragement from adults, about college. Low-income children often have working parents who may not have the time or knowledge themselves, of life after high school, and thus encouragement of college-bound behaviors must start at a young age, in school.
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Match Activities

- *Magazine Careers:* With students, cut out pictures from magazines of people in different occupations. Ask students to select a career they would be interested in pursuing from the assortment of magazine pictures. Use a digital camera to take a picture of students. Have students place their face over the face in the magazine picture. If a camera is unavailable, have students draw a picture of themselves. Under the picture, ask them to write about why they selected that particular occupation or what type of training they will need to be successful in that field.
- *Create a Poster:* create a poster with students about...
 - A role model, including information about his/her occupation and training
 - 'What I want to be when I grow up' and include information on the steps to get there
 - Their favorite subjects and the types of careers associated with those subjects
 - In encouraging students to explore the types of training associated with various careers, students can begin to understand that most careers require some type of degree, whether it is a 4-year or 2-year or vocational degree.
- *College Positive Rewards:* Look for opportunities to encourage and reward students when they do college positive behaviors (gets good grades, completes a project, or has a leadership moment). Do a special activity or make their favorite meal and invite them over for dinner to celebrate. Set goals for specific projects and/or grades and reward those goals, potentially with college-related items (t-shirts, hats, key chains, etc).
 - In associating college-bound behaviors, students will be motivated to act in a college positive manner, therefore reinforcing the importance of these behaviors.

Reading Materials

- *Amazing Grace*. Mary Hoffman and Caroline Birch
 - *Good for discussions about how 'you can be anything'*
- *Dream Big*. Ian Falconer
 - Great for discussions about following dreams
- *Honestly, Mallory*. Laurie Friedman
- *No Excuses!: How What You Say Can Get in Your Way*.
- *Unstoppable Me: 10 Ways to Soar Through Life*. Dr. Wayne Dyer
 - *Good for helping young people believe in themselves*
- *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. Dr. Seuss
- *Oliver Button is a Sissy*. Tomie dePaola
 - *Excellent book to encourage them to do what's right for them, not others*
- *Stand Tall, Mary Lou Melon*. Patty Lovell and David Catrow
 - *Good for discussions about believing in yourself*
- *The Dot*. Peter H. Reynolds
- *The Little Engine that Could*. Watty Piper
 - *Good for discussions about self efficacy*
- *A Day with a... series*
- *I want to be A... series*
- *Jobs People Do*
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Ready to Use Activities

Partnership opportunity-printing K-5 bookmarks→laminated

College Bound Creed

College Visits/Toursⁱ

Internet Resources/ Career Planning Resources:

- <http://www.knowitall.org/kidswork/> -- Exploring interesting jobs in our virtual community of workplaces
- <http://www.kids.gov/> -- Kids.gov is a site where kids can create, share, learn and have fun! We have pulled together great resources from across government that offer information that can help with anything from homework assignments to class projects, group activities, contests and educational games. You don't have to worry about unsafe links or advertising on Kids.gov. We only link to sites that are trustworthy so kids can browse freely. Our teacher's section is packed with activities for your students, just pick a topic!
- **America's Career InfoNet**
www.acinet.org/acinet
This is the place to search for occupational information, industry information, and state-specific labor market information.
- **Bridges Transitions Co.**
www.bridges.com
Bridges builds on a K - 16 Framework that aligns student planning

and programs of study to career clusters and pathways. Bridges ignites the first spark of career awareness when students are still in elementary school with Paws in Jobland. By middle school, students start using Bridges' resources to increase self-knowledge and explore all their options, as they create a personalized Texas Achievement Plan (TAP) based on their assessment results. Once in high school, students plan their coursework based on their interests, aptitude, and career goals with an emphasis on college readiness. All work is saved in a lifelong online portfolio as students make the transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Self-directed resources, in English and Spanish, guide all students and their parents on a learning path toward secondary and postsecondary success. Meanwhile, Bridges' professional development services, customized to AchieveTexas implementation, empower educators to effectively demonstrate the relevance between classroom learning and career aspirations.

- **Career Voyages**

www.careervoyages.gov

This is a career planning resource for students, parents, career changers, and career advisors.

- **COIN Educational Products**

<http://www.coin3.com/>

EBSCO's Career Guidance System (COIN) provides automatically generated, customized Texas Achievement Plans (TAP) specific to each school and each student based on national and Texas-specific Career Clusters; extensive reporting capabilities to help administrators make data-driven decisions; Spanish- and English-language Interest, Skills, and Self Assessments; a wealth of information on occupations, colleges, financial aid and more; as well as information management capabilities for both students and administrators.

- **College.gov**

www.college.gov

College.gov is being built by the [U.S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov) in collaboration with students. This site is intended to be the go-to source for information and resources about planning, preparing and paying for postsecondary education (such as 2- or 4-year colleges and universities, and vocational or career schools). Most importantly, college.gov is intended to provide inspiration and hope to all students, and encourage them to consider and pursue a postsecondary education.

- **CollegeforTexans.com**

www.collegefortexans.com

Here is everything a Texan needs to know about preparing for, applying for, and paying for college or technical school. And it's all in one up-to-date, easy to navigate mega site almost as big as the state

itself. And remember, \$4 billion is available every year to help Texans attend college.

- **College Tech Prep of Texas**

www.techpreptexas.org

Tech-Prep is a way to start a college technical major in high school. In a Tech-Prep program, you begin your course of study in high school and continue in a community or technical college. The result is a certificate or associate degree in a career field.

- **Career Cruising**

<http://www.careercruising.com>

Career Cruising is a user-friendly, web-based career exploration and planning program that helps students meet their educational goals and educators track their students' success.

- **InDemand**

www.careervoyages.gov/indemandmagazine-main.cfm

Check out *InDemand—Connecting today's students with the careers of tomorrow*. Each issue will explore careers in a different high growth industry. It will provide students as well as guidance counselors, parents, and teachers with interesting and relevant information about career opportunities, education, and the skills needed for various jobs. It offers resources to explore careers and tips about how to help students build successful futures.

- **K U D E R**

www.kuder.com

The Kuder system gives students resources to help them make better informed decisions in planning their futures. Students have lifetime access to an education planner, resume builder, and educational and occupational exploration options.

- **Labor Market Career Information (LMCI)**

www.cdr.state.tx.us

This site provides students, teachers, parents, and counselors with links to products and services offered by LMCI. Teachers and counselors will discover materials, tools, and information that will help them to provide effective career counseling.

- **National Tech Prep Network**

<http://www.cord.org/ntpn/>

NTPN is a membership organization for educators and employers involved in the advancement of Tech Prep and related education reform initiatives.

- **O*NET (Occupational Information Network)**

online.onetcenter.org

Also available in schools and libraries, O*NET provides full information on occupations, including compensation, employment prospects, and skill matching for students. Information on compensation is available on a state-by-state basis.

- **Reality Check**
www.cdr.state.tx.us/RealityCheck/
This site allows students to search for careers starting with the expenses they need to cover, the salaries they want to make, or their career choices.
- **Texas Workforce Commission**
<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>
The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is the state government agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers of Texas.
- **U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook**
www.bls.gov/oco
This nationally recognized resource offers information on job responsibilities, earnings, working conditions, and job prospects for the future.

ⁱ Resources Prepared from the following:
Michigan Campus Compact/Mentor Michigan College Positive Mentoring Toolkit
Virginia Department of Education
Achiever McBeaver and the College Crew Internet Resources