



College Readiness in the Middle Grades

The focus of this short professional development workshop will be an introduction to understanding and defining in concrete terms what it means to address college readiness in the middle grades in order to further enhance students' engagement in school, motivation to learn, and preparation for success in high school en route to success in postsecondary education.

Why is college readiness in the middle grades urgent?

- Middle school and high school are essential times for early postsecondary planning. The U. S. Department of Education, along with many educational organizations such as the National Association for College Admission Counseling and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recommends that students begin planning for college as early as sixth grade.
- By eighth grade, over 80% of students [surveyed by ACT*] indicate that they expect to earn at least a college degree and nearly half also expect to earn a graduate or professional degree...**These educational and career expectations are consistent across race, social class, gender, and student achievement level.**
- However, although students have ambitious educational and career aspirations, many lack basic information about how to fulfill their postsecondary goals. **Many students and their families fail to plan because they do not have the essential information resources, personal support networks, and structured programs they need to effectively perform educational and postsecondary planning activities.**

What do we know?

- We know that successful completion of a challenging and rigorous curriculum is often the strongest predictor of college entrance and degree completion (Adelman, 1999).
- Without postsecondary education, a student's lifetime economic opportunities are sharply curtailed. **On average, a high school graduate will earn \$1 million less over her life time than a college educated peer with a B.A. (U.S. Department of Education, 2003).** Not only do college graduates earn considerably more, **they are less likely to be unemployed and enjoy a higher standard of living than those with no postsecondary degree.**

*Research cited in *College Readiness Begins in Middle School, ACT Policy Report*



Workshop Details

When?

Monday, May 11
4:30-6:00 p.m.

-- Refreshments served

Where:

IS 254
2452 Washington Ave.
Bronx, NY 10458

Who:

Parents, Teachers,
Counselors, School
Administrators

*If possible, participating
schools should send
teams of 2 or more.*

About the workshop facilitator

Maud Abeel is a senior program officer supporting the development and expansion of AED Middle Start to new areas and to new partner schools. She also oversees High School Success Indicators, a project funded by JP Morgan Chase, which aims to create, pilot, and refine a series of strategies, tools, and resources for school leaders (principals, team leaders and others) to use in creating school cultures and supports that ensure every student leaves middle school ready to succeed in high school and beyond.

**To register for the College Readiness in the Middle Grades
Contact Aurelia Enache • Phone 212-367-4575 • email aenache@aed.org**