

Why Postsecondary Education? Part II
8th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes

Georgia's Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

Goal 8-1.3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information from the local, state, and national levels during the career exploration and planning process

a. Locate and utilize career information that includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information

Objectives: Students will understand the importance of continuing one's education after high school.

Materials: Handout, Page 3 and 4 of the FinAid.org *College Power Bulletin* (print front and back to save paper) at <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/CollegePowerBulletin.pdf> ; print enough for each student and encourage them to take this flyer home to share with their family. The *College Power Bulletin* is a free four-page handout created by FastWeb.org to encourage all students to consider pursuing a college education. It motivates students by discussing why they should go to college and how to pay for college, and also includes a who's who of famous college graduates and quotes about the value of education. The *College Power Bulletin* presents simplified descriptions that do not assume any prior interest in college or familiarity with student aid terminology. The *College Power Bulletin* markets the benefits of a college education in terms that matter to students. There is also a power point presentation, College Is Power at <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/earlyawareness.phtml>

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There are significant differences in college matriculation rates among lower, middle and upper income students. While 48% of upper income students will have earned a college degree at a four-year college by age 24, only 7% of lower income students will accomplish the same goal. (www.finaid.org) Creating a "college going" culture is important to ALL students/families and can increase their income potential tremendously.

Activity:

1. *Say:* Good morning. Welcome to advisement. Today we are going to continue our talk about why postsecondary education, usually referred to as "college", is important using the College Power Bulletin published by www.FinAid.org (*Distribute the 2-page handout front and back, one per student*) Remember, the more education a person has, the more income they can expect to earn. That's what we learned from the last session using this flyer from FidAid.org. We also learned workers in our current economy require more education. Education is vital to your future job prospects. Even though you are just in the 8th grade, you need to be thinking forward and making specific plans to reach your educational and career goals. This spring you will select courses you will take at the high school. Having a career focus can help you select those classes.

2. *Say:* Individually read this two page document *College Power Bulletin* (front and back) which is a review of the financial aid information we talked about before. It is important you understand that money should not keep you from continuing your education. Where there is a will, there is a way! If you have any trouble understanding the content, raise your hand and I will help you; or, you can ask your neighbor for assistance if you prefer. Before you start, I want to make sure you understand that the money you will need to continue your education is called FINANCIAL AID (write this term on the board or flip chart). *Ask are there any questions? While the students are reading the two page document, write the questions below on the board or flip chart.*
3. *Divide the group into smaller groups of three. Ask each group to answer the following questions:*
 - a. Name three types of financial aid. Why are grants and scholarships better than loans?
 - b. How can you find scholarships? (FastWeb). *Remind students that GACollege411 has an extensive file on scholarships and financial aid under the FINANCIAL AID tab.*
 - c. Discuss the quote, “Education cost money, but then so does ignorance.” What does this quote mean? (Answer: If one doesn’t have the necessary knowledge and skills to be competitive in the job market, they lose money).
 - c. What is the primary form you must complete to receive financial aid including the HOPE scholarship or grant? (FAFSA- Remind students they can find this at GACollege411 and will complete the form in December of their SENIOR year).
4. Review the answers with the students. Ask: How many of you would like to continue your education after high school? Good, it is important that you seriously consider to “keep going” after graduation. You will need additional education to remain competitive in today’s very competitive job market.
5. *Dismiss:* That’s it for today in advisement. You will continue to get more financial aid information at the high school. Stay positive and study, study, study. Remember the HOPE scholarship requires a 3.0 grade point average and you don’t have to pay that money back!