

FLIP THE SCRIPT

We can take the latest postsecondary research and Flip the Script to support students and their families make the best and most informed decisions. We can't continue with the same sound-bite information. Here are the top 6 actionable items you can do this Fall.

1 ALL COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS NEED TO APPLY TO A LOCAL OPTION

Enrollments are not as finalized as they once were, with many students switching mid-summer when school counselors are unavailable. We advise that all students apply to at least one local option (community College and/or 4 year) and complete all financial aid for that college, so that if a last-minute change happens the student does not have an interruption in their education.

45% of seniors applied to college that are closer to home, and 25% of transfers did so to be closer to home. ([Thirdway](#))

21% of seniors whose first choice of college changed, noted that their first choice was too far from home. (SDSU/Hoover Data)



2 ALL SENIORS COMPLETE FAFSA AND/OR STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Encourage all students to apply for financial aid, as early as possible. Even if a student isn't choosing to pursue postsecondary education in the following year, it is important that they know (1) how to apply for federal aid and (2) how much grant money they are eligible for.



84% of seniors who complete the FAFSA are more likely to immediately enroll in postsecondary education. (NCAN)

127% increase in immediate college enrollment for students in the lowest socioeconomic quintile who complete the FAFSA (NCAN)

3% increase in college enrollment per additional \$1,000 in the AOTC (a tax credit for qualified educational expenses) and an increase of 4% for every \$1,000 in state merit aid.

(See S.M. Dynarski and J. Scott-Clayton, "Financial Aid Policy: Lessons from Research," Education Policy Initiative, Ann Arbor: The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, 1/2013.)

3 ENGAGE PARENTS & GUARDIANS AS A PARTNER IN POSTSECONDARY PLANNING

Family engagement is always a high priority, but now we are seeing higher levels of stress and anxiety experienced by both families and students, which may lead to misaligned expectations about postsecondary plans and family responsibilities post-high school. Thus, we include this to double-down on the previous research encouraging family engagement.

- Schools that engage families find that their students have higher grades, show faster rates of literacy acquisition, attend school more regularly, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. ([Panorama Research](#))



4 AMPLIFY STUDENT VOICE IN DESIGNING THEIR POSTSECONDARY NEEDS, GOALS, AND PLANS

COVID19 has impacted every student and household in a unique way.

"I suggest a more culturally responsive approach to college counseling and access, that refrains from a deficit viewpoint, and considers the contextual needs, cultural knowledge and assets our students embody to realize their college aspirations and career goals."

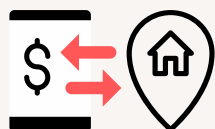


[Culturally Responsive Education: Reflection - Beyond the School Walls | College Counseling Now \(sdsu.edu\)](#)

5 DON'T ASSUME POSTSECONDARY PLANS ARE BINARY - SUCH AS EITHER COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OR WORKING

43% of full-time enrolled students report they are working, and 81% of part time students report so ([NCES](#)). As you are advising students, be sure to understand their full financial picture and expectations of their family.

25% of alumni said they sent money home to support at least one family member. The proportion was slightly higher at 2-year schools than at 4-year schools. ([KIPP Alumni Study](#))



6 RESEARCH STRONG LOCAL OPTIONS FOR CERTIFICATION AND ALTERNATIVE POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS

As of Fall 2021, there is no centralized place to search for certification or alternative postsecondary programs, and the few places that do offer search options don't control for quality or employment levels post-program. Thus, we recommend school counselors work with their local college/career programs to create a localized list of vetted options!

