

Designing a College Counseling Program for High Schools

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Goals of the Session

Provide strategies that consider student outcomes and the capacity of the schools

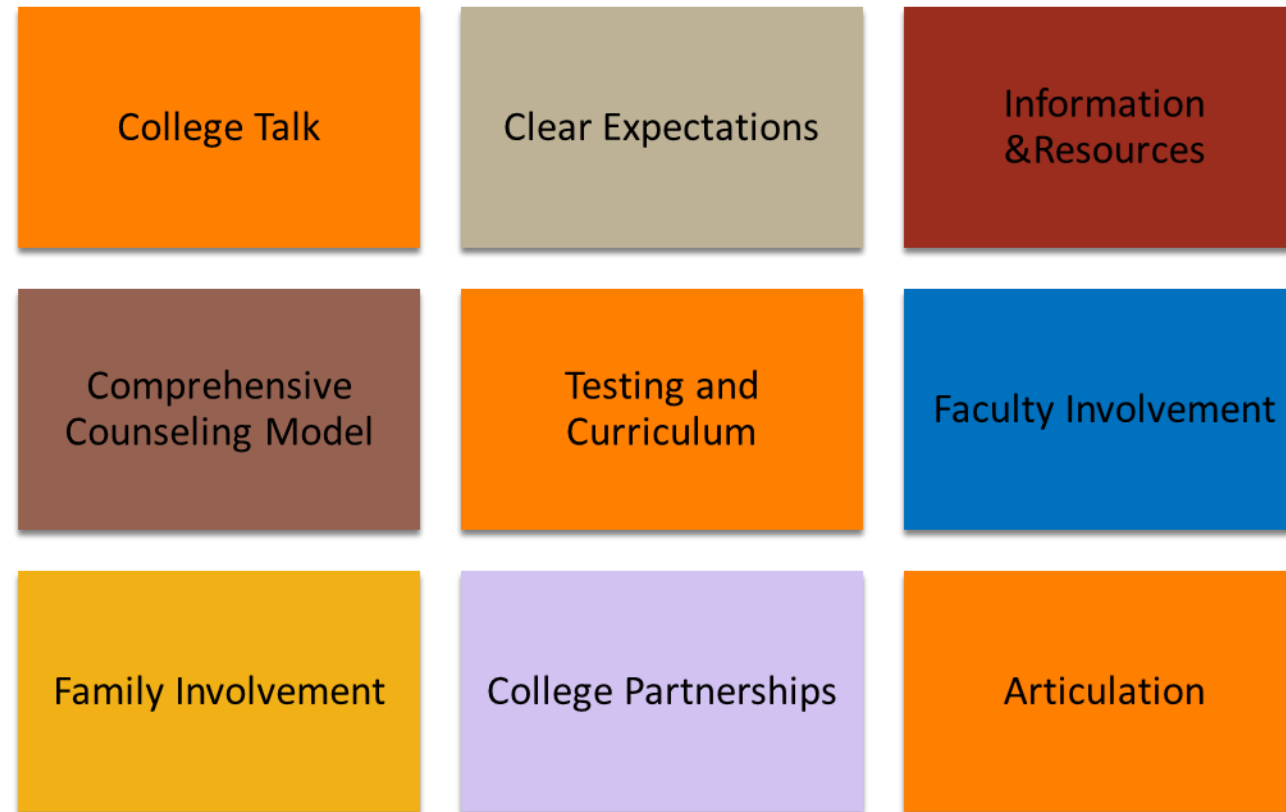
Provide strategies for the transition of students with Individualized Education Plans into higher education

Create a space for exchange of ideas and information



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Nine Principles of College Counseling



How is my school doing with the Nine Principles?

1	2	3	4
Does Not Meet	Approaching	Meets	Exceeds

The Nine Principles of College Counseling at CNCA



Our School

- Our school serves the area of MacArthur Park and our students are 98% Latino
- We have a teacher staff of 24; 16-18 of which teach in our college knowledge program
- We have a 240:1 counselor ratio.
- Our college counseling model allows for counselors to stay with their caseloads to ensure deeper relationships
- On average, 75%-80% four-year acceptance, 72%-76% enrollment
- Assistant Principal of Instruction collaborates with College Counselors for Master Scheduling, College Program Implementation and our Special Education Program



Building with the end in mind...

- Being part of the Administration Team allows us to hone in on the priorities and needs of our students in terms of their college preparation and voice those needs.
- The mission of our charter organization includes preparing our students to be college bound beginning in pre-k through their college career.
- The College Counselors and AP are advocates for the counseling program and this has helped build trust among other school leaders and the home support office.



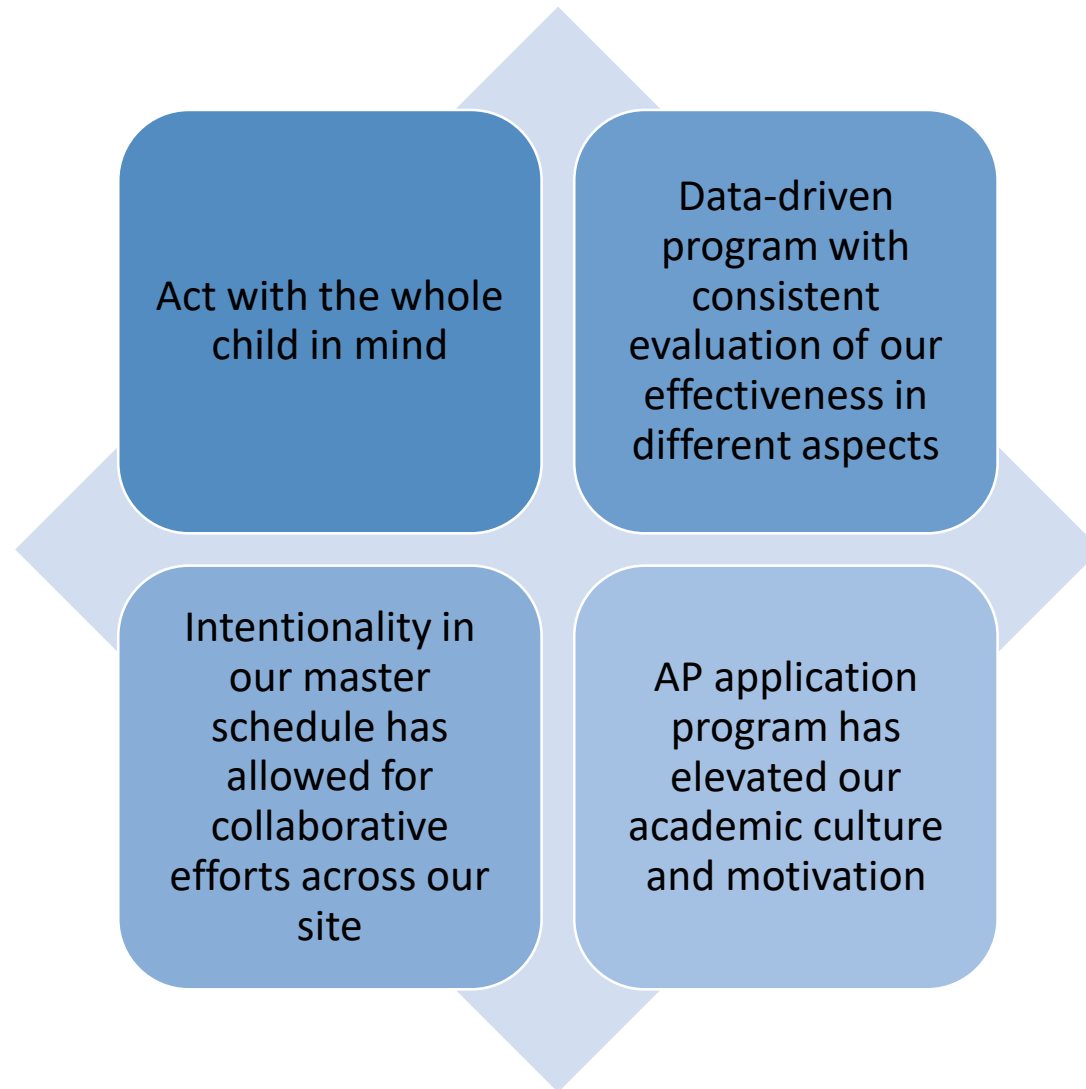
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The Fundamentals of Our Program

- All students must complete A-G course requirements to graduate
- Students move in cohorts allowing Administrators and College Counselors to track A-G completion
- All students take college advisory classes through which they receive college entrance exam preparation and literacy development
- School has interventions in place to support academic performance
 - Tutoring Block
 - Grade-level remediation
 - All teachers offer tutoring
 - Advisory grade checks
 - All students have a trusted adult on campus
- Student transition plans have been a part of all IEPs for the last nine years
 - All students have had full-inclusion for since the opening of the school
 - Our Special Education program has focused their efforts on teaching executive functioning skills



Becoming Effective



Becoming Effective *cont.*

College Counselors loop with their students from year to year

College Counselors advocate for student test prep (ACT, SAT)

Proactive and frequent communication with stakeholders has helped garner buy-in and support

Educating others about the changes and trends in college counseling



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Learning from Others

College Awareness

Parental Involvement

Academic Advising
and Success

Small Student-to-
counselor Ratio

Social Preparation



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Learning from Others *cont.*

- College representatives as social capital
- Progressive college counseling model
- Cohort-style caseload management
- A-G as graduation requirements are the hallmark for California charter school success
- Everyone is a college counselor on site



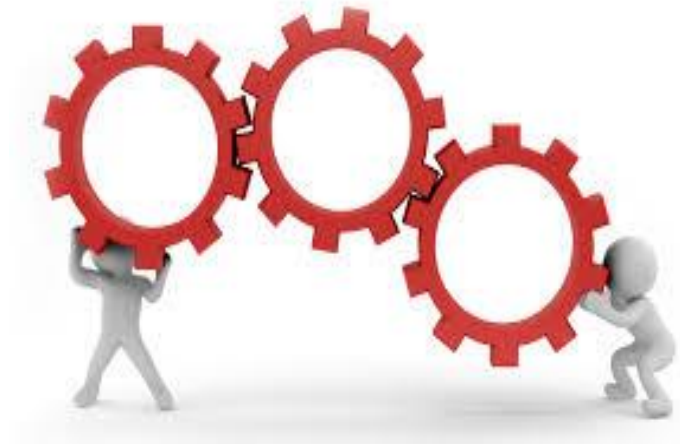
Strategies

- Design a program that is student-centered, sustainable and has the ability to involve all stakeholders
- Create your own network among other college counselors at schools similar to yours
- Share your best practices with stakeholders and potential partners, as well as your counselor network
- Create a culture of high expectations for students, while ensuring that the school is being supportive



Strategies

- Share your successes with students, teachers and families alike
- Set goals as a campus to involve all stakeholders in the college counseling process
- Make use of the summer (as possible)
- Create student energy around college culture through competitions



Thank you!

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