

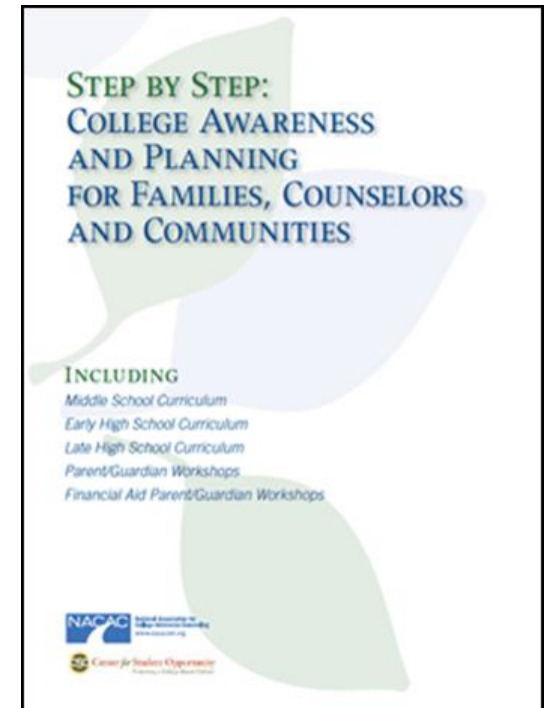
The Wonder Years The Middle Schooler's Road to College

The logo for the National Association of College Access and College Achievement (NAACAC). It features the acronym 'NAACAC' in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a blue swoosh that extends to the right, passing through the 'C's.

NACAC

National Association for
College Admission Counseling

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Guidance in the later years of middle school, and particularly the time of transition to high school, can put students on a successful path to post-secondary education. College is a goal that can be attained.

Why Middle School

Create the expectation- YOU WILL GO TO COLLEGE

- Maximize the “window of opportunity” to get students college and career ready.
- Increase graduation rates (first generation)
- Reduce the need for remedial courses in college.
- Prepared students are less likely to leave college without completing a degree.
- Decrease the possibility of students dropping out of high school.

Counselors Role

- Create a goal
- Keep them focused
- Assess their interest, strengths and academic habits
- Encourage students to keep their goal

“STEP BY STEP” CURRICULUM: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Step by Step Overview

Middle School Curriculum

Challenge students to see college admission and attendance as a goal

Help students assess their interests, strengths, and academic habits

Explain concepts about college options and financial aid

Provide a template for building a college preparatory curriculum

Students start building a profile & support network to reach their college goals

Getting to Know Them

Icebreakers are more than just silly games!

Activities

- **Peer Connections**
 - Ice Breaker Bingo – Middle School pgs.9 and 10
- **What Do You Like**
 - My Interests Chart -- Middle School pgs. 11 and 12
- **Question Toss- Beach Ball Game**

Question Toss-Beach Ball Game

- If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?
- If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
- What is one goal you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime?
- When you were little, who was your favorite super hero and why?
- Who is your hero? (a parent, a celebrity, an influential person in one's life)
- What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
- If they made a movie of your life, what would it be about and which actor would you want to play you?
- If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?
- What's your favorite cartoon character, and why?
- If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why
- Are you a morning or night person?
- What are your favorite hobbies?
- What are your pet peeves?
- What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR COLLEGE VOCABULARY

1. What is the difference between a college and university?
2. What is a Hispanic serving institution?
3. What is the difference between Early Action, Early Decision and Select Early Action?
4. What is the difference between a research institution and a “teaching college”?
5. What is the difference between a grant and a scholarship?

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

It's All About Me: My Future Goals.....8

- Peer Connection
 - Ice Breaker Bingo
- What Do You Like?
 - My Interest
- Making a Name for Myself
 - Career Exploration
 - Career Interview

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

Should I Go To College?.....15

- Career Knowledge
 - College knowledge survey
- Knowledge is Power
 - College Degree and Career

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

FINANCIAL AID TRUE/FALSE

1. College is not worth the debt involved. It's better to go directly to work. T/F
2. Half of all students attending college pay less than \$9,500 to attend school each year. T/F
3. Only A students can go to college and get financial aid. T/F
4. Applying for financial aid is very difficult and complicated. T/F
5. To make it in today's world, you must have a four -year degree. T/F
6. Over the course of a lifetime, a high school graduate can earn as much as a college graduate. T/F
7. The average annual income of a person with a college degree is more than \$55,000. T/F
8. Colleges give full athletic scholarships to athletes?. T/F
9. Private colleges are too expensive and you shouldn't apply if you don't have the money. T/F
10. Some employees will help you pay for college. T/F

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

How Do I Get To College.....73

- **Planning For the Future**

- Four year high school plan
- Understand your learning style
- Get Involved (interest and activities)
- Time Management
- What are colleges/universities looking for? Know what matters.
- Money for college
- Piecing it all together – “winning”

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

Create a four year high school plan

- Evaluate the students interest based on previous assessments
- Develop a course plan prior to high school
- Share the plan with the high school counselor (same page)

Remember the goal is to set the students up for success.

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

Getting Involved: Which activities “look better” to colleges?

Sports:	Individual, Team, Private Coaches
Fine Arts:	Graphics, Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Photo
Performing Arts:	Band, Orchestra, Choir, Dance, Theatre
Scouts:	Gold Awards, Eagle Scout
Religious Groups:	Youth groups, Mission Trips, Work Camps
Writing:	Newspaper, Yearbook, Literary Magazines
Volunteering:	Canned vs Creative
Other:	???????

Answer: Spend time doing what you enjoy!

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

Know what matters:

Rank from 1-12 the importance of the following components of a college application:

Admissions Test
Scores
Grades in all Courses
Counselor Evaluation
Essay
Teacher
Recommendation
Class Rank

Grades in College
Prep
Demonstrated Interest
AP/IB Test Scores
AP/IB courses
Extracurricular
Activities
Interview
Strength of Curriculum

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

How do Colleges/Universities Read Files?

“Data-Driven” Read

This is a focus on the more quantitative pieces of the application – SAT/ACT scores, number of AP/Honors courses, overall GPA, core GPA.

“Holistic” Read

This includes a focus on the quantitative piece of information within the application – recommendations, essays, activities and awards as well as numbers.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETER

NACAC

STEP BY STEP: CURRICULUM

Resources for Middle School Parent Workshop.....74

(Sample Parent Letters, Evaluations, Activities, Discussion Questions and Resources)

Topics:

- Steps to encourage student achievement
- Create a constructive learning environment at home
- Building self-esteem and a positive self-image
- Set the stage for dreams to become reality
- Helping student cope with academic and personal pressures
- Take the right courses for college
- Creating academic portfolios and developing extracurricular interests

BE BOLD

Early Awareness Resource List

- College For Every Student
www.collegefes.org
- College: Making It Happen
www.certicc.org/collegemakingit.aspx
- Counselor Zone
www.collegezone.com/counselorzone/265.htm
- ECMC Foundation – The College Place
www.ecmcfoundation.org
- Get Ready for College (MN)
www.getreadyforcollege.org
- Illinois Resource for undocumented students
<http://www.iacac.org/undocumented/>

Early Awareness Resource List

- **NACAC - Step-by-Step**
www.nacacnet.org/steps
- **NACAC – Knowledge Center**
www.nacacnet.org/research/KnowledgeCenter
- **College Video Tours**
<http://www.youniversitytv.com/>
- **Center for Student Opportunity**
www.csopportunity.org
- **Big Future by The College Board**
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- **KnowHow2GO**
www.knowhow2go.org

Early Awareness Resource List

- College For Every Student
www.collegefes.org
- College: Making It Happen
www.certicc.org/collegemakingit.aspx
- Counselor Zone
www.collegezone.com/counselorzone/265.htm
- ECMC Foundation – The College Place
www.ecmcfoundation.org
- Get Ready for College (MN)
www.getreadyforcollege.org
- Illinois Resource for undocumented students
<http://www.iacac.org/undocumented/>

Questions
Comments
Ideas to Share

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