



# Kids2Careers

FREE resources for postsecondary and career exploration and planning:

#### 1. Postsecondary Planning Presentations (Grades 9-12)

ACPE staff present useful tools, activities, and timelines to help high school students take specific steps at the right time. Templates help students compare postsecondary options.

#### 2. Postsecondary & Career Prep Panel Discussions (Grades 5-12)

Three to five panelists share their postsecondary and career prep stories and recommendations with students. Four tiers highlight select topics of interest for grades 5-12.

#### 3. Kids2Careers Curriculum Program (Grades 5-8)

Students explore postsecondary education options and career interests, learn about financial aid, & age appropriate steps to prepare for accessing and affording college and career training options.

Online tools for students, educators, and families:

#### <u>Student</u> <u>Resources</u>

Student Success Steps Digital Planning Calendar ACPE Success Center FAFSA Assistance Training & Enrichment

# <u>Educator</u> Resources

PSE Planning Presentations PSE & Career Prep Panels 6-Lesson Curriculum GoogleSlide Presentations Campus Events & Virtual Tours

# <u>Family</u> <u>Resources</u>

Family Guiding Steps AK 529 Savings Plan Family Info Sheets Scholarship Contest FAFSA Assistance

Contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist, ACPE at <u>shelly.morgan@alaska.gov</u> or 907-269-7972. Learn more at <u>acpe.alaska.gov/Kids2Careers</u>





# Creating a Postsecondary & Career Prep Culture

The Institute for Higher Education Policy reports that while nine out of 10 middle school parents expect their child to earn a college degree, almost half have not started planning for college or technical career training, and nearly two-thirds have not started saving. During the years that follow middle school, social influences can lead promising students off the path to college and career training.

## Inspiring Students through Career Aspirations

Research indicates that for students in 5th-8th grade, linking personal identity, future careers/earnings, and dreams to higher education is critical to starting them on a path to college and career training. Kids2Careers curriculum and planning resources help inspire students to succeed in school, explore their interests, and understand time-sensitive steps and how to access tools that will help students in whatever career and postsecondary options. A study commissioned by the Gates Foundation identified the connection between education and career aspirations as the most critical drop-out prevention strategy for low-income students after academic enrichment. This is the educational philosophy behind the Kids2Careers curriculum.

## **Curriculum and Program Resources**

**The Kids2Careers Curriculum Program** includes flexibility for students in grades 5-8. The curriculum program helps students explore postsecondary education options and career interests, learn about financial aid, and the grade level steps they can take to best prepare themselves for accessing and affording college and career training options. The curriculum program includes a postsecondary & career prep panel discussion and in-person or virtual campus events and tours. Pre-recorded campus events highlight programs of study at various Alaska institutions.

**Postsecondary & Career Prep Panel Discussions** highlight age-appropriate postsecondary and career preparation concepts for grades 5-12. Panel events are available with and without the curriculum program. We seek regionally connected panelists with diverse experiences to share and dialogue with students.

**Postsecondary Planning Presentations** help 9th-12th grade students understand time-sensitive steps. We share recommended steps based on student interests, provide tools to assess interests, and help guide students on where to find and how to use postsecondary planning templates, checklists, and planning tools. Templates help students compare college or technical training options.

#### Kids2Careers partners in Alaska:

- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- Alaska 529 Education Savings Plan
- Alaska school districts & educators
- Alaska college campuses & technical training programs
- Volunteers from the business community



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