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California Parents Urged To Seek College and Career Planning Guidance Early For Preparing Their Kids For Success Beyond High School

North Hollywood, Ca.— As the new school year begins, parents across California are encouraged to start early in seeking college and career planning guidance for their children. With the complexities and competitive nature of post-secondary education and career landscapes, early planning has become essential for ensuring students' success beyond high school.

The California Department of Education emphasizes the importance of early engagement in college and career planning, highlighting that starting as early as middle school can make a significant difference in a student's readiness for their future. Early planning allows students to explore their interests, set achievable goals, and develop the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate their post-high school paths effectively.

With only 180 instructional days in a school year, school counselors often struggle to meet with all students regularly, leaving many without the crucial support they need. In California, there is an average of one college and career counselor for every 500 students, making it difficult for counselors to provide personalized attention to each student. This high counselor-to-student ratio means that many students may not receive the individualized guidance necessary to help them navigate their future paths effectively.

“Parental college and career guidance is essential, it is no longer an ‘option’. If these statistics are true, the chances of a student who attends public schools will likely not get the individualized assistance needed from a college counselor. Therefore, it is imperative that parents start early and seek guidance on how and when to start preparing their children for future success whether they choose to go to college or not.” states Janet Lavender, CEO of Well Suited

How Parents Can Help

Parents play a vital role in their children's education and future planning. By getting involved early, parents can help bridge the gap in guidance and support that schools may not be able to fully provide. Here are some steps parents can take:

1. **Start Conversations Early:** Begin discussing future goals and interests with your children in middle school, and as early as elementary school. Encourage them to explore different subjects and activities to discover their passions.

2. **Seek Guidance:** Don't wait until high school to seek guidance from school counselors. Reach out to them early and often to understand the resources and opportunities available.
3. **Explore Options Together:** Research colleges, trade schools, and vocational programs together. Attending college fairs, open houses, and informational sessions to gather information and make informed decisions.
4. **Plan Academically and Financially:** Help your child choose the right courses in high school that align with their future goals. Also, start financial planning early to understand the costs associated with higher education and explore scholarship opportunities.

Utilize Online Resources: Take advantage of online tools and resources designed to assist with college and career planning. Websites such as www.wsccp.org offer valuable information and planning tools.

The Importance of Early Planning

Research shows that students who begin planning for their future early are more likely to achieve their academic and career goals. Middle school is a critical time for students to explore their interests and aptitudes, which can help them make informed decisions about their high school courses and extracurricular activities. By identifying their strengths and interests early, students can align their educational paths with their long-term goals, whether they aim to attend college or pursue a career in the trades.

Conclusion: The future success of California's students depends on early and effective planning. By starting the conversation and seeking guidance early, parents can play a crucial role in helping their children navigate the path to college and career success. The California Department of Education urges all parents to take proactive steps to support their children's future goals, ensuring that they are well-prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

For more information and resources, please visit www.wsccp.org or contact Janet Lavender at 818-844-7869 or jlavenderjanet@gmail.com

About Well Suited: *it is a dedicated nonprofit organization that has provided career and educational success for California's students and adults since 1997. We provide resources, guidance, and advocacy to ensure that all students and adults have access to the opportunities they need to achieve their full potential. www.wsccp.org*

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