

## Ramp-Up News

December 2017

### For You:

Are you and your lead team getting out to see how Ramp-Up is going in classrooms? If not, I really encourage you to do so soon. Doing learning walks as a system check can help your team understand what is working well and what needs to be adjusted for better results. I will share a sample walkthrough template but would encourage you to use a Google Form or some other data tabulating app that compiles information for you to make this process quick and easy for you and your leadership team.

### For Staff:

“There are no jobs for high school graduates at Siemens today.” Applicants with merely a high school diploma are facing steep odds when they apply for jobs. Factories, which used to be a workplace where high school grads could earn a solid income are often now requiring a college degree of some sort.

A New York Times article (<http://nyti.ms/2jNQtuB>) says that “Faced with a skills gap, employers are increasingly working with community colleges to provide students with both the academic education needed to succeed in today’s work force and the specific hands-on skills to get a job in their companies.” This is likely good news for students and our economy because as the author states, “Many high school students rush off to four-year campuses not ready for the academic work or not sure why they are there. Government data show that 44 percent of new graduates enroll directly in a four-year college, but based on recent trends, less than half of them will earn a degree within four years.”

There are good manufacturing jobs available for our students, but we need to make sure they understand that these jobs will often still require advanced math and writing in high school, which have typically been encouraged only for those planning to attend a four-year school. Perhaps you could share this article with your staff so they can help students understand this trend, too.

### For Families:

Apprenticeships, which combine instruction with paid work, usually over a period of time, and typically lead to a full-time job have a long history but are making the news more as of late. Apprenticeships appear to have bipartisan support and thus are gaining steam across the country. Many people may associate apprenticeships with blue collar work, but a recent Washington Post article (<http://wapo.st/2zxUbAw>) suggests they are becoming more commonplace in white collar industries, too. Consider sharing this article—and the one above that has some common themes—with parents, who are likely to be grateful for the information.