

Ramp-Up News

March 2017

For You:

In the past I have referenced the saying, “You can’t expect what you don’t inspect.” Are you getting into classrooms on Ramp-Up days to check out what is happening? If not, you are missing out on a great leadership opportunity. One idea for your site lead team is to employ the concept of “rounding,” which is a practice borrowed from the medical world. Rounding can help in many ways. It can help you know for certain that Ramp-Up Activities are being taught as expected across your school, clarify your commitment to college and career readiness, and provide staff with an opportunity to share their experiences about Ramp-Up. For more info on rounding, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_7p4e3ZiuY, which describes the concept, <http://www.myrounding.com/rounding-tips/video-library>, which highlights the benefits, and <http://www.myrounding.com/rounding-tips/video-library>, which will help you write effective rounding questions.

For Staff:

Mandy Savitz-Romer of the Harvard Graduate School of Education let us know about an exciting summer institute that is focused on preparing students for post-secondary readiness and success. The info she shared is below:

“The program is open to K-12 educators working in a variety of roles that support student success pathways, as well as community-based and non-profit professionals engaged in college access work and helping students plan for the future.”

The program will be held June 25-28. Additional information can be found on the program webpage: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe/pss>. Questions can be directed to Erika Sologuren, Admissions Coordinator, at ppe@gse.harvard.edu or [617-384-7482](tel:617-384-7482).

For Parents:

Most parents worry, rightfully so, about how to pay for college. The table below can be shared with parents to help them distinguish between the types of financial aid available to students and to determine. Parents can also be directed to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid?utm_content=sf52411489&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=spredfast&utm_campaign=Federal&sf52411489=1, a website that provides greater detail about financial aid, tips for scholarships and grants, work-study, federal student loans, loans from your state government or college, and private loans, and also a glossary of financial aid-related terms.

WHICH FINANCIAL AID IS THE BEST TO ACCEPT?		
RANK TO ACCEPT AID	TYPE OF AID	WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND
1	Scholarships and grants	Make sure you understand the conditions you must meet (for instance, you might have to maintain a certain grade-point average in order to continue receiving a scholarship, or your TEACH Grant might turn into a loan if you don't teach for a certain number of years under specific circumstances).
2	Work-study	You don't have to pay the money back, but you do have to work for it, so take into account that that'll mean less time for studying. However, research has shown that students who work part-time jobs manage their time better than those who don't!
3	Federal student loans	You'll have to repay the money with interest. Subsidized loans don't start accruing (accumulating) interest until you leave school, so accept a subsidized loan before an unsubsidized loan.
4	Loans from your state government or your college	You'll have to repay the money with interest, and the terms of the loan might not be as good as those of a federal student loan. Be sure to read all the fine print before you borrow.
5	Private loans	You'll have to repay the money with interest, and the terms and conditions of the loan almost certainly will not be as good as those of a federal student loan.