

Ramp-Up News

September, 2016

For You:

Save the date! On October 7, 2016 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. we are offering a “Brush-Up Workshop” for all site coordinators and principals who want to reconnect to Ramp-Up’s “college and career readiness for all” mission, imperative, and processes. There is no charge for the workshop, which will be held on the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities campus, and lunch is provided. Look for an invitation soon.

For Staff:

As we discussed in our workshops, it is wise to communicate and even *over communicate* why college and career readiness for all is so important when talking with your staff. This can be challenging as educators are all busy and have multiple foci to maintain. Nonetheless we strongly encourage you to prioritize college and career readiness by leading your staff in learning work about it throughout the year. If you have not done so this fall, utilize the updated “Supporting Students with Ramp-Up” PowerPoint available to you on our website at <http://rampuptoreadiness.org/?q=current-schools/professional-development-power-points>. You may also want to select a short article for your entire staff to read that clearly explains the college and career readiness imperative from our bibliography located at http://rampuptoreadiness.org/sites/rampuptoreadiness.org/files/resources/readiness_information/college_readiness_annotated_bibliography.pdf. Finally, we urge you to use a protocol with all learning work so that staff members have a chance to record, reflect on, and share dialogue about what they are learning. We have attached a KWL chart as one such protocol that is simple and easy to use.

For Parents:

There is increasing awareness that student absenteeism is a major issue in our schools. Attendance Works, a national and state initiative that promotes better policy and practice around school attendance, states that showing up for school has a strong impact on a student’s academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school and that for all students, families play a crucial role in making sure students get to school each day. In a flyer created for families so that they can understand the implications of absenteeism, Attendance Works points out the following:

- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student’s academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

Consider sharing this flyer, which has additional valuable information, with families. It can be found at http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/AW_HS-flyer_3-15-12.pdf