



## Making the most of the college fair

### Designing the college fair

- PREP-KC has seen that the most effective way for juniors to learn about their college options is if they have the opportunity to sit with college reps and have authentic conversations. The “Behind the Table” method creates a disconnect between student and college rep. If possible, set up the fair to have chairs for students at each table so conversations can be engaging, impactful and interpersonal. Most times, college reps have attended the institution that they are serving and this set up allows them to share their student experience.

### Prepping for the college fair

- Research
  - Share a list of colleges planning to attend the fair with students.
  - Create class time to allow students to research each college.
  - Resources such as <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-find-your-college-fit> can be helpful in deciding the best college fit and majors.
  - Prepare a binder to store information received from the fair.
- Determining the best fit
  - Help students discern why they want to go to college and what vision they have for themselves.
  - Students should develop questions to ask colleges based on their interests (see sample questions on the back).
  - Remind students to be open-minded during their college search.
  - Have students practice introductions that include indicating their interest.

### During the fair

- Have students see this as a way to interview colleges and the opportunity to receive free advice.
- Remind them to ask for business cards.
- Encourage them to fill out contact cards for colleges they are interested in.

### Debriefing from the fair

*\*students will be overwhelmed from the information overload and thinking about the best fit for them\**

- Have students create a list of their dream schools and safe schools
  - Develop a plan for each list, challenge students to think about what they can do now to prepare, know the application/scholarship dates, what will make senior year easier, etc.?
- Following up with college reps
  - Remind students to contact the colleges they are interested in immediately after the fair. Ask to be connected with other departments of interest such as athletics, financial aid (for scholarships), counseling, school of engineering, etc.
  - If they are interested and able, encourage them to set up a campus visit in advance.



Sample questions for students to ask during the fair

- What types of financial aid do you offer?
- What are your admissions requirements?
- What is the cost for 15 credit hours?
- How early should I complete an application?
- What is housing like on campus?
- What is the tuition cost per class?
- Do I need to take the ACT or the Compass?