



Kids2College

Participating schools receive a six-lesson curriculum that prepares 6th grade students to identify career interests, build personal learning and career plans, and understand the steps they must take in middle and high school to prepare for future success in college and career training. The curriculum, provided by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) in collaboration with the UA College Saving Plan and The Sallie Mae Fund, includes student handbooks, a companion teacher's guide, and related take-home materials to encourage family discussion. The lessons combine hands-on activities with information on careers, college life and academic preparation. Age-appropriate and interactive activities reinforce the importance of setting students' sights on college and career training. To conclude the program, students participate in a group visit to a local college to experience the college environment.

Partnering for Success

Kids2College is accomplished through partnerships between community groups, schools/districts, and college campuses with a desire to inspire a college-going culture.



ACPE and the UA College Savings Plan: ACPE provides a statewide coordinator to oversee program structure, recruit colleges and schools, train classroom teachers and facilitate program evaluation. The UA College Savings Plan partners with ACPE to provide curriculum and program materials to students and teachers.

Schools and School Districts: Teachers are trained to use the curriculum in the classroom. Schools print lesson handouts and supplemental materials, and arrange transportation for the college visit.

College Campuses: A campus representative facilitates a career panel, and organizes and hosts the campus visit.

The Sallie Mae Fund: The Sallie Mae Fund provides online customizable curriculum to partners who share the vision and commitment to implement the program locally.

Limited partnerships are available. To learn more about bringing Kids2College to your school contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist, ACPE at shelly.morgan@alaska.gov or 907-269-7972.

Applications available at acpe.alaska.gov/K-8Programs

Creating a College-Going Culture in 12-14 year olds

The Institute for Higher Education Policy reports that while nine out of 10 middle school parents expect their child to earn a college degree, nearly half have not started planning for college and nearly two-thirds have not started saving. During the years that follow middle school, social influences can lead promising students off the path to college. Kids2College is proven to increase the expectation of going to college and spur behavior that keeps students on track, particularly among minority and first-generation college students.

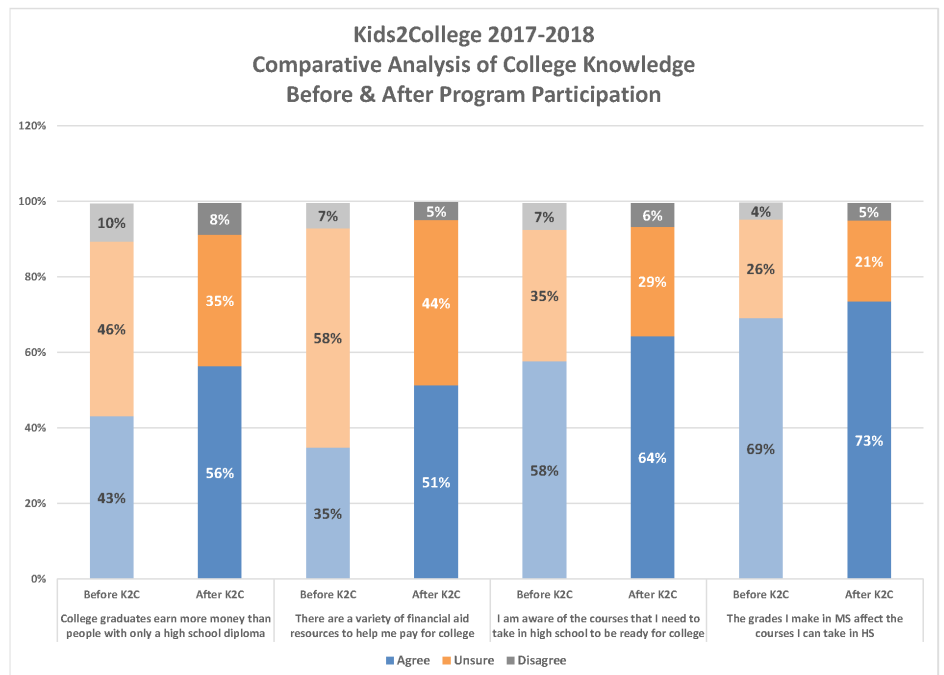
Inspiring Students through Career Aspirations

Research indicates that for students in 6th-8th grade, linking careers, future earnings and dreams to higher education is critical to starting them on a path to college. A study commissioned by the Gates Foundation identified the connection between education and career aspirations as the most important drop-out prevention strategy for low-income students after academic enrichment. This is the educational philosophy behind Kids2College.

Curriculum and Program Design

The Sallie Mae Funds' national Kids2College curriculum was built in consultation with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships and incorporates best practices and research. ACPE has enhanced the Sallie Mae curriculum for Alaska's students by incorporating Alaska graduation requirements, college preparatory curriculum recommendations, information on the Alaska Performance Scholarship, as well as information on state-specific resources such as the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS).

Kids2College partners in Alaska include: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, UA College Savings Plan, The Sallie Mae Fund, University of Alaska Statewide, Alaska Pacific University, Alaska school districts, and volunteers.



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