

Lesson Plan

Visualizing Your Dream School

Sub-indicator 1.2 Postsecondary and College Planning

Common Core Standard

Students will be able to “produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience”

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.4](#)

Learning Objective(s)

Students will create a visual representation of their dream postsecondary education setting, including courses they would like to take, educational setting, activities, offered, size, proximity to home, etc.

Materials

- Teacher prepared slide show on community specific postsecondary options as outlined in activity (Teacher must create before teaching the lesson)
- Graphic Organizer for students
- Poster option: poster board, art supplies, magazines
- Slideshow option: computers with PowerPoint or Google Slides

Opening Activity – Whole Class, 10 Minutes

Activity Purpose

- This activity helps students begin visualizing different options for postsecondary education.
- This allows students to see examples of multiple examples before designing their dream education setting.
- This provides opportunities for students to advocate for their interests, values, and preferences as it relates to their future.

Description of Activity

Say: “So you’re currently in high school and are learning new things everyday! However, when you finish high school, you still might have more to learn to be ready for your dream job. However, education after high school is different and you have a choice in what types of school is right for you. We are going to look at examples of different options. As we go through this, you are going to use a graphic organizer to write down what you like about each option and what you don’t like.”



Opening Activity - continued

Teacher will share a slideshow they have created prior to the lesson for each of the different postsecondary and college education options in their specific community. There should be a 1-2 sentence description below images that the teacher reads aloud to students. The options should include:

- 2-year college
- 4-year college
- Vocational-technical programs
- Continuing adult education
- Life skills programs

Note: In the slide show, make sure to include examples of:

- what a campus/school setting looks like
- images of types of careers are a result of each type of education option
- provide an example in their community of each type of education option
- pictures of some extracurricular activities/programs students could participate at in each of the options.

Say: “Now that you have seen the different options, you are going to share with you table partners what you liked about each and what you didn’t like” (Teacher should circulate around the room and check in with what students are responding and help prompt discussions)

Say: “Put a star next to the option that you liked the best” (provide wait time) “Would anyone like to share out their favorite option and explain why they liked that one?” (Call on 2-3 students to share out and reiterate what they liked about these options).

Assessment:

1. Students will fill out a graphic organizer of “likes” and “dislikes” for each option. This will allow students to start brainstorming their preferences, but also discern what types of education options they are interested in and why.
2. Students will turn and talk with their desk partner and share what they liked and didn’t like and why.

Activity 1 – Dream School

Activity Purpose

- Students will create a poster or virtual presentation of their “dream” school after high school to visualize their interests and preferences for postsecondary education.

Activity 1 – Dream School

Description of Activity

Say: “So we just learned about different types of schools and explored what we liked and disliked about them. Now you are going to use your imagination and you get to design the school of your dreams! You are going to create a poster/presentation with what classes your dream school offers, what the school looks like, where it is located, and explain why this dream school would help you accomplish your future goals! Keep in mind, you want a school that is going to help you be ready for your dream future, so make sure that your dream school helps you to get the skills you need for that dream future!”

Option 1: Students will create a poster that displays characteristics of their dream program after high school. This poster can include all pictures, text, drawings and should describe:

- What does it look like?
- What classes does it offer?
- How many students are in your classes?
- Is it close to home or somewhere else?
- How do these components align with your future goals?

Note: You should verbally prompt students with these questions and visually display them as students are working to guide them.

Option 2: You can use digital resources to create a visual of your future school. This could be in the form of a Google Slide/PowerPoint, a collage created in a document, a mind map, or other option. It should address all the questions listed in option 1.

Tip: Have students use the graphic organizer from their opening activity to help them with ideas. Prompt them to what they liked about the options they saw.

Tell students: “The more specific you are with the characteristics you value at your school, the better your transition team can help you search for schools that offer these things!”

As you are circulating throughout the room and checking in with students, ask students the following:

- What classes does your school offer? Why?
- What things are you interested in outside of school? How could these interests be incorporated into your dream school?
- What is important about the classrooms/setting at your future school? Why are these important to you?
- Do you want your school to be close to home? Why/why not?
- Tell me about your future school, what makes this your dream school?
- How does this “dream school” help you with your future goals?

Activity 2 – Presenting Dream Schools

Activity Purpose

- Students will present their dream school to 2-3 peers in class from Activity 1.

Description of Activity

Say: “You spent a lot of time thinking through and creating your dream school. I got to see how those schools were unique to you and what was important to you! We are going to share our dream schools with our peers, because they might want to attend our dream school, or learn about what we want to do in the future! Everyone has a different plan for their future, so it’s important to learn about what makes each of us unique!”

Students will sit in a circle with 2-3 other peers and show them their project/presentation of their dream college. Students will explain to their peers:

- What classes are at their dream school? Why?
- What hobbies/activities are at their school?
- What does their school setting look like?
- How does this dream school relate to their future goals?

Note: Display the questions, or create a checklist when students are sharing to make sure they are answering all 4 parts. Teachers should circulate and help prompt these questions to support discussion facilitation.

How will students demonstrate their learning?

Students are able to express their interests, values, and preferences and how those transfer to future education settings and their future goals through visuals and/or verbal explanation.

Closing Activity – Reflect

Description of Activity:

Say: “Thank you for sharing your dream schools with each other. As you shared, what did you have in common? Did you notice differences? Did you learn anything new about yourself or others?”

Students share their reflections in small groups or as a full class.

NAME: _____

TYPE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM	WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM:	WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM:
2-YEAR COLLEGE		
4-YEAR COLLEGE		
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL PROGRAM		
CONTINUING ADULT EDUCATION		
LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM		