



Alexandria City Public Schools

Building Bonds Beyond the School: Webinars for Families

College and Career Readiness

[HTTPS://WWW.ACPS.K12.VA.US/2025](https://www.acps.k12.va.us/2025)



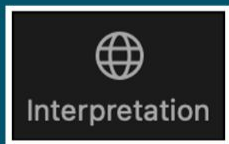
Presentation curated and edited by Martinez, P.L. (2024) Marijuana, Opioids, Vaping and Prevention: Building Bonds Beyond the School Webinars for Families, November 5, 2024. Prevention Campaign for Substance Abuse Services, (PSSE) Alexandria City, VA.



Essential Questions

- Learn how students can prepare for post secondary options.
- Learn about the variety of post secondary educational and training options available.

TO ACCESS YOUR INTERPRETATION CHANNEL:



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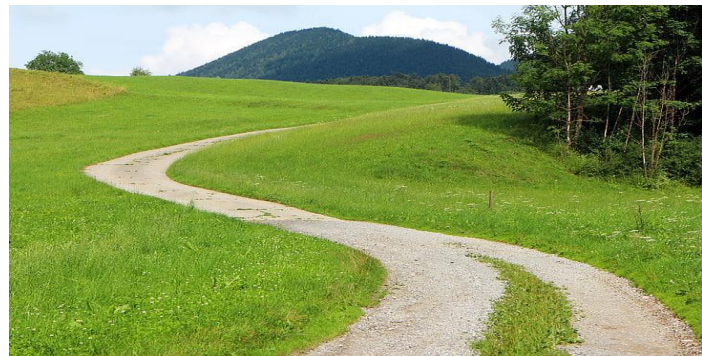
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Agenda

- Preparation for Post Secondary Options
- The Three E's
 - *Education*
 - *Enlistment*
 - *Employment*
- What Can Families Do To Help Prepare Students for Their Future?





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Preparation for Post Secondary Options

Elementary Exploration

Beginning in elementary school, students explore different occupations associated with careers:

K-5 Career & College
Readiness Lessons

Middle School
Transitions

Career Day Events



Elementary Exploration

- K-5 Career & College Readiness Lessons
 - Career Exploration to include: interest surveys; career field trips; career clusters; test preparation; specific AVID lessons at Cora Kelly; Jefferson Houston and Patrick Henry
- Career Events
 - Career nights
 - Career visitors
 - Spirit Week
- Middle School Transition
 - Grade 5 Academic Advisement
 - Middle school field trip and presentation
 - Lessons focused on transition, high school pathways and Program of Studies
 - AVID introduction





Preparation for Post Secondary Options

Middle School Exploration

Middle and high school students create a personal learning plan and course of study that aligns with a student's academic and career goals (Academic Career Plan)

- Naviance Self-Discovery Assessments
- Career Investigations Course
- In-person or virtual college visits





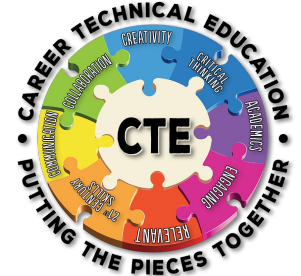
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Preparation for Post Secondary Options

Middle School Exploration

Middle and high school students create a personal learning plan and course of study that aligns with a student's academic and career goals (Academic Career Plan)

- College and Career Exploration Lessons
- Academic Career Plan Conversations
- Curriculum Night and Elective Fair





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Preparation for Post Secondary Options

High School Exploration

- College and Career Center
 - College Visits
 - Military and Career Program Recruitment
 - College and Career Fair
- Individual conversations with counselors
- Naviance Self-Discovery Assessments
- Scholarship Fund of Alexandria
- Senior Experience
- Webinars and Field Trips





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Questions



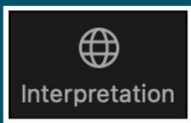


INNOVATIVE

What are postsecondary options for students?

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Three E's: Post High School Decision-Making

Education

Continued learning in a specific field toward certification or degrees

Enlistment

Joining the Military

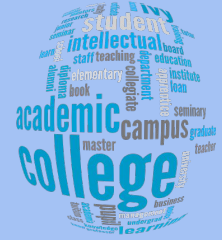
Employment

Going to Work/Job



The first “E”.....

EDUCATION



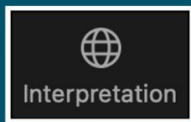


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**Which institute of higher education do you
earn an Associate's Degree from?**

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THIS OR THAT

Which one requires approximately
2 years of post high school education?

Community
College

College or
University



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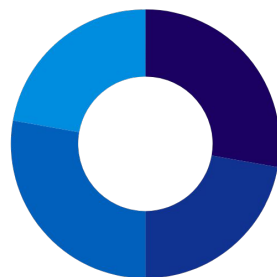
College: Two-Year or Four-Year

WHAT

- College (awards bachelor degrees)
- University (awards bachelor and master degrees)
- Community College

COST

- Approximately \$7,000/year at a community college
- Approximately \$13,000/year at George Mason (least expensive state public university)
- Approximately \$25,000/year private college or university (range up to \$100,000/year)



PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Certificates
- Associate degrees
- Bachelor Degrees

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

- People who earn a college degree earn three times the lifetime income than people who have no education after high school
- To advance in certain fields, you must have a college degree



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What's the difference?



College/University

Community College

4-year degree (Bachelor degree)	2-year degree (Associate degree)
Most have on-campus housing	Most have no on-campus housing
Prepares you for career or graduate study	Prepares you for employment or transfer to a 4-year college or university
You apply and attend when you get accepted	Universal enrollment (once you graduate from high school you can enroll)
Most majors are broad and not always linked to a specific job/certification	Many majors are career-specific
Higher cost	Lower cost



The second “E”.....



ENLISTMENT

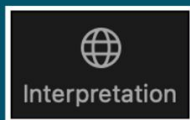


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TRUE or FALSE: To serve in the military you have to do it full time.

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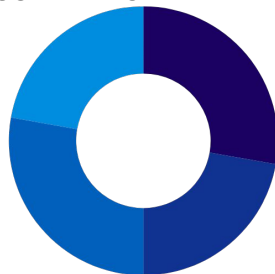
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WHY

- Enter the workforce quickly
 - Gain life skills within community
- Variety of career options
 - ASVAB Test
- College ROTC Programs
 - Prepare you to become an officer while earning a Bachelor degree

COST

- Payback in Time
- Income Salary
- Paid housing
- Educational Benefits



Branches

- Navy
- Army
- Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Space Force
- Coast Guard
 - Service Academies (free college degree as you train to be an officer)

ADDITIONALLY

- Job Growth/Security
- Inactive vs. Active Duty



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HOW DO I GO TO THE MILITARY?

Reserve/National Guard	Active Duty	ROTC	Service Academies
Part-Time Service	Full-Time Service	Deferred Service	Enlisted Service before Officer
One location for all jobs	Location is job-specific	Location is at your college	Location is on campus
You earn benefits/salary as you serve	You have benefits/salary from your first day	You may or may not have a scholarship	Your tuition, housing, food is all provided for 4 years and you earn a stipend
Your job is based on ASVAB score, your interests, and what the service needs	Your job is based on ASVAB score, your interests, and what the service needs	Your service is separate from your major - you are learning the military	Your service is separate from your major - you choose a branch after junior year



The third “E”.....

EMPLOYMENT



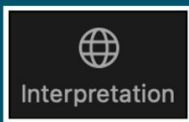


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TRUE or FALSE: Students cannot continue their education and work a job at the same time.

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Trades/Apprenticeships

WHY

- Enter the workforce quickly
 - You may earn income during or right after graduation while you train
- Can earn credentials in 2 years or less

COST

- Community College is often more affordable than a for-profit trade school
- State funding (FAFSA, G3, Fast Forward)
 - You can train for FREE

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Associate Degrees
- Certificates
 - Welding, Real Estate, InfoTech
 - Health Care
 - Early Childhood Education

ADDITIONALLY

- Many trades are in fields that are high in demand
 - Willing to pay
 - Good benefits
 - Educational Benefits
 - Job Growth/Security



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How To Get Involved In the Trades

Actions to Consider:

- What job do you want?
- What are you good at?
- What do you like to do?
- What classes should you take in high school?
- How do you sell yourself?

ACHS:

- Naviance Results*
- Program of Studies-CTE & elective courses
- Partnership Programs
 - GW HMS
 - NOVA
 - VA State
- Apprenticeship Fair
- In-House presenters
- Urban Alliance



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The “E” EMPLOYMENT- Post Secondary Options

Apprenticeships

- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Steamfitters
- Finishing Trades Institute International
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Sheet Metal
- Plumbers and Gasfitters

Employment

- Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Dulles and National)
- Cropp Metcalfe Services
- PR at Partners Salons
- INOVA Health System
- Dominion Energy
- Michael and Son Technical Academy
- MGM National Harbor
- And More!

Trade Schools

- Urban Alliance
- Paul Mitchell School (Cosmetology)
- Aveda Institute (Cosmetology & Esthetics)
- Auto Dealer Education Institute (Auto Tech/Sales)
- Long & Foster Institute of Real Estate
- Certificate Programs at NOVA



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What Can Your Family Do Now?

- When out in the community, talk about the different jobs or careers you notice
- Discuss with your children your educational and/or career training journey
- As a 5th grade parent, attend middle school transition events such as:
 - Middle School Open Houses
 - Elective Fair
- Explore virtual career and college opportunities



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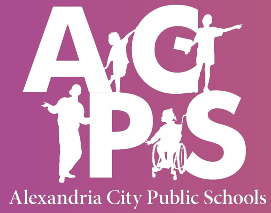
What Can Your Family Do Now?

- Talk about what your student wants to do after high school
- Talk about what you do at work and how you prepared for it
- Look at available High School Pathways
- Talk about the classes your student is taking and what they should take next year.
- Research colleges online
- Learn more about different careers and how people prepare for them. [These videos](#) are great.



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Thank You!

