



# Student Support Systems for Postsecondary Persistence and Success/Collaborations

May 11, 2023

Dr. Aja Carpenter, Executive Director, Postsecondary Readiness  
April Alcaraz, Director, GEAR UP

Always to Adult Success 2023- Agency, Belonging, and Connections

What characteristics do the school or work community have which make add to your feeling of belonging?

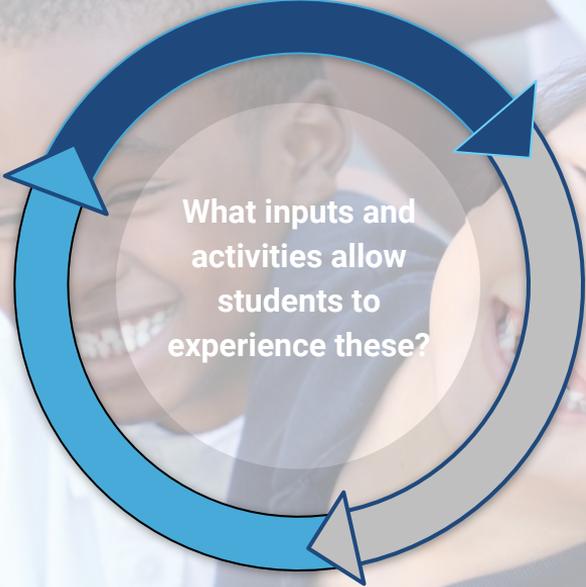


# Connect

How do we connect to students? How do we provide connections for students? How do we personally connect our personally experiences to students interests?

# Belonging

How do we create safe spaces where students feel that they belong? How do we contribute to students' sense of belonging?



What inputs and activities allow students to experience these?

# Agency

How do we facilitate opportunities for students to exercise agency? In what ways do we show agency for our students?

**“Connection  
before  
content.”**

**How do we tell kids they are  
wanted?**

**How do we create opportunities for  
students during their academic  
trajectory to connect, belong, and  
experience agency?**

# Higher Ed Partnership



- Partnership with local community college
- Since 2010
- High % of SDP students attend after HS
- Variety of joint projects
- Shared Vision and funding opportunities



## Preparation for Pathway Activities-Middle Grades

### GEAR UP Activities:

- College Career Exposure
- Direct services to students
- Capacity-building with school leaders
- Use (and practice using) of existing data

### GEAR UP enables us to:

- Build on the understanding of college pathways and experience
- Use of prior knowledge
- Existing personal relationships

High School LAYERED SUPPORTS		
Dual Enrollment	Power Skills Academy	Certificates & Credentials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathway into Higher Education</li> <li>• Opportunities for 11th and 12th grade students to earn college credit</li> <li>• Career Pathway Credentials and Certifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internship and credentials</li> <li>• Entry to employment</li> <li>• Pre-apprentice program</li> <li>• Workplace skills</li> <li>• ACT Work Keys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves CTE and non-CTE students</li> <li>• Align with careers</li> <li>• Career exposure</li> <li>• Short-term experience to make life decisions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with others with similar goals</li> <li>• Data shows positive impact on persistence of success for students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted students</li> <li>• Growth expected, 96 students this summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDP Soft launch</li> </ul>
STRUCTURE/SYSTEM OF SUPPORT		

## Post-High School Contined Supports (GEAR UP)

- Individual support and advising
- Guidance on navigating post high school landscape
  - Opportunities to connect with peers
- Accountability in achieving identified goals



## Career Connected Learning Continuum



### Career Awareness & Exposure

#### ★ Classroom Programs & Activities

Use of Naviance as project-based experiences; or incorporation of career activities or programs tied to content in lesson plans

#### ★ Guest Speaker(s)

An individual or group presents to students to increase industry awareness and build exposure

#### ★ Career Fair

An event where multiple employers offer information about career opportunities to students

#### ★ Company Tour (Field Trip) (\*WBL)

A visit to an industry facility to see what happens at a company day-to-day and to learn about the different positions available

#### ★ Job Shadow (\*WBL)

A work-based learning experience where a student follows and observes an working professional to see a day in the life of that occupation

### Career Preparation & Immersion

#### ★ Internship (\*WBL)

An individual or group presents to students to increase industry awareness and build exposure

#### ★ Service Learning Projects (\*WBL)

Students work together with employers to address real-world community needs

#### ★ Career Mentor (\*WBL)

Relationship with an experienced professional to help guide a student through an industry

#### ★ Career Development/Industry Based Credential

Specialized training/formal education intended to help students improve their knowledge, competence, skill, and effectiveness

#### Entrepreneurship Education

Introduces students to the values and basics of starting and running a business

### Career Acquisition & Launch

#### ★ Employment / On-the-Job Training

Employers offer formal or informal training opportunities that take place once a student has been hired

#### ★ Apprenticeship Pathways (\*WBL)

Formal, structured employment that is approved by the State and includes on-the-job learning, continued education, and mentoring, with career growth opportunities based on time or skill development

#### ★ Postsecondary Education

Continued learning through a college, university, or advanced training program that leads to a credential such as a certificate, license, or degree to be eligible for higher skilled employment opportunities

#### Community-based Work Programs | IEP Specific (\*WBL)

TBD

# Activity Matrix

	Exposure & Awareness	Preparation & Immersion	Acquisition & Launch
<b>Belonging</b> <i>How do we create spaces where students feel that they belong? How do we contribute to students' sense of belonging?</i>	Ex. Mentorship Groups		
<b>Agency</b> <i>How do we facilitate opportunities for students to exercise agency? In what ways do we show agency for our students?</i>			
<b>Connection</b> <i>How do we connect to students? How do we provide connections for students? How do we personally connect our personally experiences to students interests?</i>			



**Postsecondary  
Transition  
(School, Work  
or Military)**



- Entry & Exit Plans
- Academic Advising
- Admission & Financial Aid (Scholarships/FAFSA)
- GEAR UP
- Graduation Requirements

**Career  
Readiness**



- CEW Curriculum Infusion
- Naviance Implementation
- Financial Literacy
- 21st Century Schools
- 9th Grade Academy

**Rigorous  
Coursework  
(Advanced)**



- Dual Enrollment
- S.Y.O.P.
- AP/IB
- CTE
- S.O.A.R.
- CTE/DE

**Industry &  
Work-Based  
Learning**



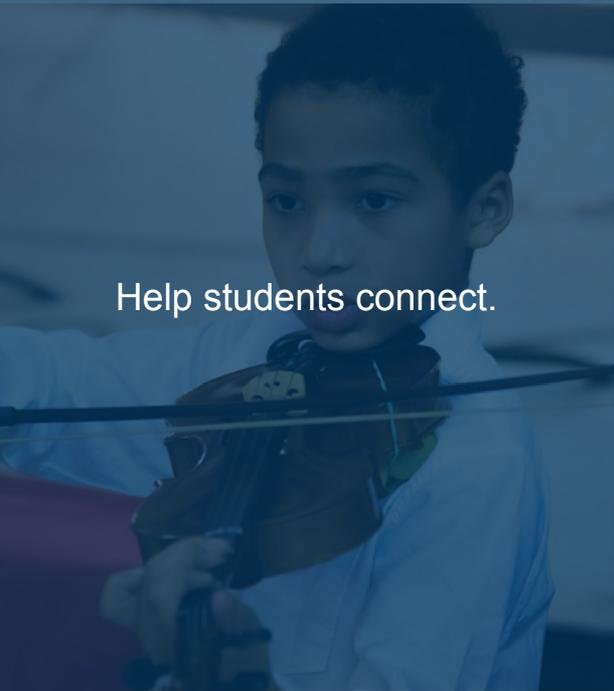
- Career Connected Learning
- Pathways to Careers
- Work-based Learning Models and Opportunities
- JROTC



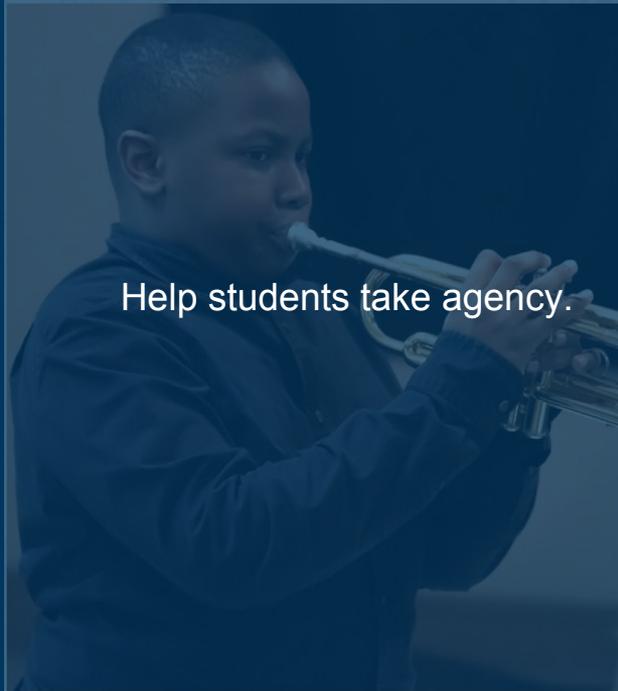
*Guidance & Assistance | Resources & Tools | Facilitation | Education | Assessments |*

**Awareness  
Exposure  
Preparedness  
Immersion**

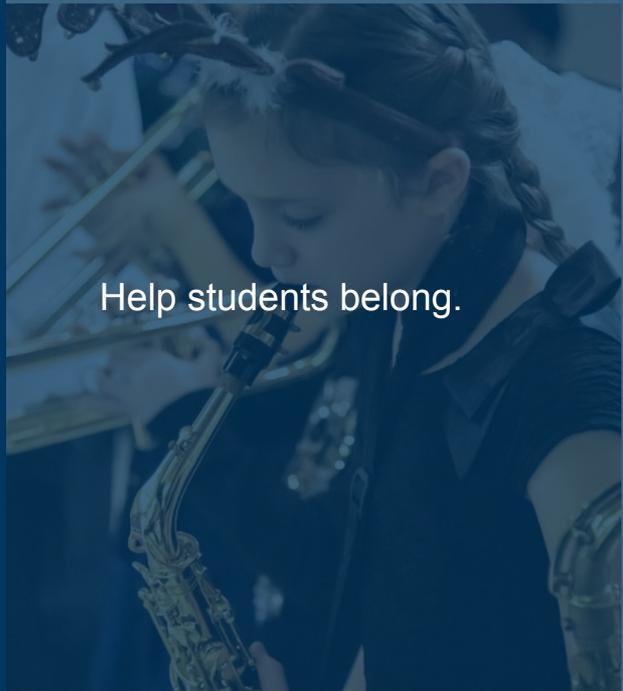
# HOW WILL YOU DO IT?



Help students connect.



Help students take agency.



Help students belong.

# THANK YOU

---



**Dr. Aja Carpenter**  
[acarpenter@philasd.org](mailto:acarpenter@philasd.org)



**April Alcaraz**  
[aalcaraz@philasd.org](mailto:aalcaraz@philasd.org)



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA