

# Integrating Postsecondary Support into the Work of Student Success Teams

Student Success District Network

April 22, 2026

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Advancing Student  
Success Systems

# Warm-up

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## In the chat...

How does your district define preparation for post-high school success?

# The GRAD Partnership for Student Success

## 1 WHAT

Building student success ecosystems to ensure schools and communities are empowered to graduate students ready for the future and provide pathways to adult success

## 2 WHO

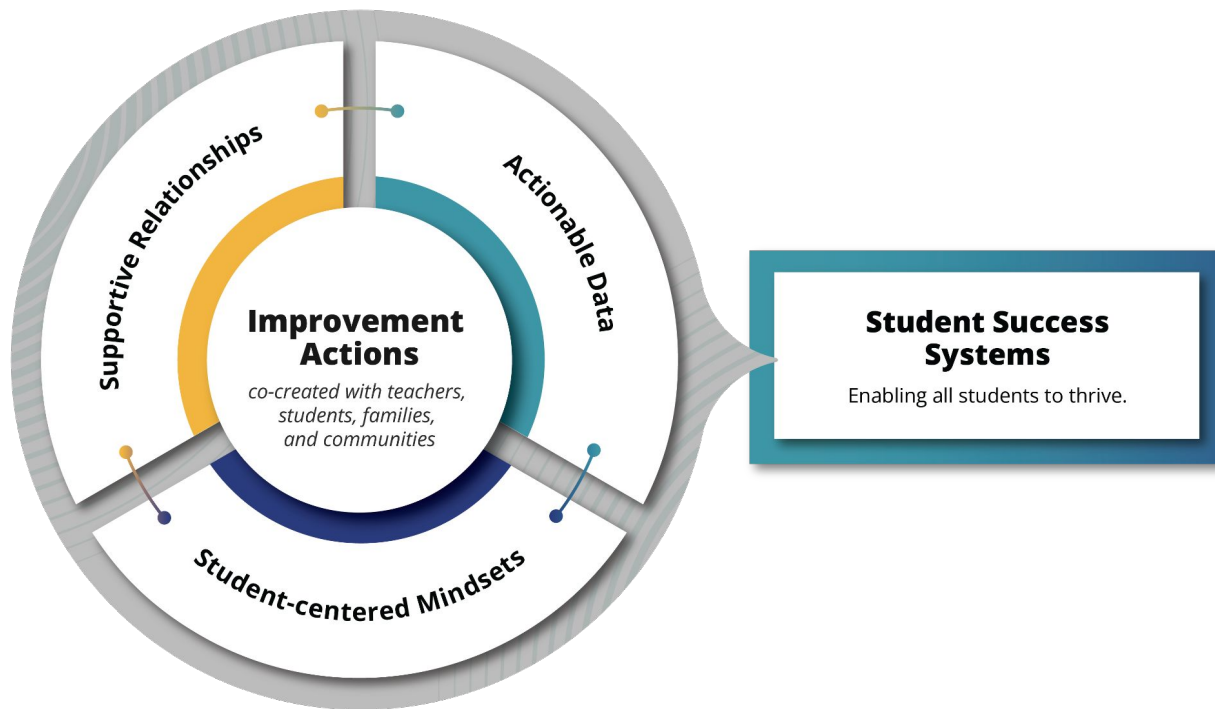


## 3 HOW

- Delivering multiple types of technical assistance to schools, districts, and states
- Certifying and building capacity of local implementing partners to support schools & districts
- Providing a national network
- Developing tools and resources



# Four Components of Student Success Systems





# Today's Session:

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**01**

**Session  
Welcome**

**02**

**Extending  
Student  
Success  
Systems**

**03**

**Postsecondary  
Milestones and  
Student  
Success  
Systems**

**04**

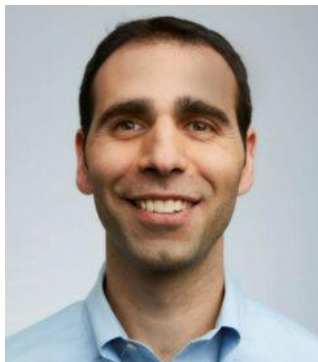
**Next Steps**

# Meet the Facilitators



**Kate Cochran**

Managing Director,  
Partnership for Student  
Success



**Eli Pristoop**

Director, Impact Lab,  
**Carnegie Foundation for  
the Advancement of  
Teaching**

**GRAD Partnership**



**Marie Husby-Slater**

Student Success District  
Network Coordinator

**GRAD Partnership**

## Who we are

The GRAD Partnership is a first-of-its-kind, field-led collaboration of leading research, technical assistance and non-profit organizations. We partner with states, local Intermediaries, communities, and districts and schools to establish sustainable, high-quality student success systems across the nation.

# Community Norms

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- **We, not me:** Share stories and airtime
- **Accept non-closure**
- **Use the ideas, keep details in the community**
- **Share to learn** (within the network and your team)
- **Professional over personal**
- **We are all learners**
- **There is more than one way to do this work**
- **Make room for joy**

# Extending Student Success Systems

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# Current Systems and Approaches

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- **Student success systems** build key mindsets, infrastructure, processes and habits central to keeping students on-track in high school and increasing their chances of graduating
- **Secondary pathways and postsecondary readiness** identifies milestones and metrics for understanding a student's path toward adult success and readiness for life after high school

# Directions for Student Success Systems

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- Student success systems create opportunity to integrate both efforts; such as tracking student experiences (like internships), exposure to options (like college visits and job fairs), progress milestones (like submission of college applications), and skill development (like self-advocacy)
- GRAD Partnership recognizes the opportunity to leverage and coordinate the work districts are already doing through student success systems and postsecondary readiness efforts
  - Weave in the metrics and postsecondary readiness conversations of with student success team routines, holistic data views, and progress monitoring

# Directions for Student Success Systems

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## Postsecondary readiness

Student experiences, exposures, and milestones



## Student success systems

Holistic data views, routines, and progress monitoring



## Leveraged and aligned systems

Behaviors and mindsets, metrics and data practices, and student experiences aligned and integrated for impact and efficiency.

# Discussion

## In your breakout room

Reflect on your current efforts related to incorporating postsecondary pathways into the student experience.

- Is your district already doing work to integrate student exposure and experiences related to postsecondary preparedness and student success systems? What does that look like?
- Have you incorporated any other related strategies or considerations?
- What barriers exist to your ideal situation for progress monitoring toward post-high school transitions?

# Postsecondary Milestones and Student Success Systems

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# Expanding and Weaving Postsecondary Pathways into Student Success Systems

## Adult Practices for Schoolwide Student Success Systems

## Student Experiences to Cultivate Postsecondary Access in Grades 9-12

On-track Achievement		Postsecondary Access and Success		Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Strong Relationships</b> 	<b>Actionable, Holistic Data</b> 	<b>Improvement Actions</b> 	<b>Student-Centered Mindsets</b> 	<b>Know</b> 	<b>Do</b> 	<b>Believe</b> 	

# Adult Practices for Schoolwide Student Success

	On-Track Achievement	Postsecondary Access and Success
<b>Strong Relationships</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interdisciplinary teams of teachers and staff supporting a shared caseload/team of students in achieving on-track promotion.</li> <li>Relationships between school adults and students, focusing on engagement and academic success.</li> <li>Peer relationships and mentorship with upper-class students.</li> <li>Partnerships with families around on-track engagement and academic progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counselors, teachers, and support staff partnering to promote postsecondary access.</li> <li>Relationships between students and staff, including high school alumni, in preparation for success after high school.</li> <li>Partnerships between the school and higher education, workforce partners, and community-based organizations.</li> <li>Peer support and mentorship.</li> <li>Partnerships with families around postsecondary planning.</li> </ul>
<b>Actionable, Holistic Data</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 9 on-track rates (i.e., on-pace with promotion/graduation requirements) and credits earned.</li> <li>Bs or better grade point average (i.e., 3.0+ GPA).</li> <li>Course failure rates across content areas.</li> <li>School and class attendance and tardiness rates.</li> <li>Student engagement and connections to the school community.</li> <li>Referrals and behavioral infractions.</li> <li>Interdisciplinary skill development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cumulative grade point average.</li> <li>Cumulative attendance rates.</li> <li>Cumulative credit earning.</li> <li>Enrollment in dual-enrollment, AP, IB, and CTE coursework.</li> <li>Postsecondary plan identification.</li> <li>Postsecondary milestone completion (e.g., FAFSA, applications, ASVAB, resume).</li> <li>Postsecondary confidence.</li> </ul>
<b>Improvement Actions</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-dosage tutoring.</li> <li>Peer mentorship, pairing Grade 9 and upperclass students.</li> <li>Freshman seminar focusing on interdisciplinary skills.</li> <li>Grade 8 to 9 summer bridge/orientation programs.</li> <li>Attendance postcards, text messages, and phone calls home.</li> <li>Home visits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAT/ACT/AP preparation.</li> <li>Application campaigns and support activities.</li> <li>FAFSA task forces and scholarship events.</li> <li>College tours and vocational site visits.</li> <li>Internships and work-based learning.</li> <li>Senior signing day events.</li> </ul>
<b>Student-Centered Mindsets</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students can and will be successful in high schools.</li> <li>Educators share responsibility for ensuring students have the resources needed to be present and thriving in school.</li> <li>Educators are responsible for creating an environment where students feel strong connection and belonging.</li> <li>Families and caregivers are valued partners in this work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postsecondary exploration must be an inclusive process that centers student choice, various pathways, and financial aid.</li> <li>Postsecondary planning is our collective responsibility and not simply the role of school counselors/postsecondary coaches.</li> <li>Educators are accountable for students' smooth transitions into a postsecondary pathway of their choice.</li> <li>All students can and will be successful beyond high school.</li> <li>Educators should not prescribe pathways or limit pathways.</li> </ul>

# Student Experiences to Cultivate Postsecondary Access in Grades 9-12

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of Grade 9 and what it takes to be on-track.</li> <li>Attendance matters and school attendance policies.</li> <li>The role of credits, passing grades, and transcripts.</li> <li>Opportunities to get involved in my school community (e.g., clubs, sports).</li> <li>Available school resources and support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My transcript and grades matter for my future.</li> <li>What I need is to graduate on time and have a strong resume for postsecondary.</li> <li>There is a wide variety of options after high school and each has different entry requirements.</li> <li>Who/where to go for help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various careers aligned to my interests and skills.</li> <li>Education requirements for my career goals.</li> <li>The checklist of junior-senior access milestones to complete for my chosen pathway.</li> <li>What it costs to pursue different pathways and available aid.</li> <li>How to manage my time.</li> <li>How to collaborate on a team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to complete the FAFSA, scholarships, and other financial aid forms.</li> <li>How to communicate with diverse stakeholders through different mediums.</li> <li>How to persevere through obstacles and solve complex problems.</li> <li>How to be a critical consumer of information.</li> </ul>
Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend school and go to classes on time every day.</li> <li>Engage in courses, complete assignments, and prepare for assessments.</li> <li>Participate in extracurriculars, sports, and school activities.</li> <li>Identify personal passions and interests.</li> <li>Advocate for individual needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active involvement in the school community.</li> <li>Explore different pathways (e.g., military, workforce, trade/technical, 2/4-year college).</li> <li>Attend school regularly.</li> <li>Prioritize academics.</li> <li>Practice and develop interdisciplinary skills.</li> <li>Advocate for my needs.</li> <li>Regulate emotions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a postsecondary pathway and begin to complete access milestones.</li> <li>Participate in dual-enrollment, AP, IB, and/or CTE coursework if possible.</li> <li>Visit college campuses.</li> <li>Engage in career-connected learning.</li> <li>Attend school regularly.</li> <li>Prioritize academics and build interdisciplinary skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete pathway milestones aligned to (e.g., applications, exams, enlistment).</li> <li>Commit to a pathway.</li> <li>Engage in work-based learning.</li> <li>Make a financial plan to support postsecondary goals.</li> <li>Attend school regularly.</li> <li>Prioritize academics and build interdisciplinary skills.</li> </ul>
Believe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can and will be successful in high school.</li> <li>I belong as a valued member of the school community.</li> <li>Educators at my school care about and believe in me.</li> <li>My education will unlock future opportunities.</li> <li>School matters and it's important to go to school every day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My effort and perseverance pays off in terms of my grades and opportunities for my future.</li> <li>I am building knowledge and skills that matter for my future.</li> <li>Failures and setbacks do not define me.</li> <li>I have people I can turn to for support and guidance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have a better understanding of my personal values.</li> <li>I am making connections between my values and what I want to do after graduation.</li> <li>I embrace a growth mindset and have experiences that reinforce a growth mindset.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am excited about my future after high school.</li> <li>I can and will be successful in my chosen postsecondary pathway.</li> <li>I have a network of people who support and believe in me.</li> <li>I belong in my chosen career path and/or college.</li> </ul>

# Discussion

- What would it take for a resource like this to be useful in your context?
- Are there other things you are doing to create alignment between these areas of work?
- What additional questions or ideas does this raise for you?

## In Your Breakout

Discuss the adult practices or student experiences chart.

# Discussion

- What are you doing to create alignment in (adult practices/student experienced) between students success systems and postsecondary readiness?
- What additional questions or ideas does this raise for you related to integrating these two areas of work?

## Group Discussion

Discuss the adult practices or student experiences chart.

# Share Out

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From your discussion, share:

1. One way to leverage student success systems to further your post high school success goals
2. One challenge integrating student success systems and postsecondary readiness

# GRAD Partnership Next Steps

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- Postsecondary Success Maps (adult and student) further developed to support monitoring and intervention
  - Refined based on field-testing/pilot
  - Links to practical tools and resources
  - Shared with GRAD Partnership network
- If you would like to provide additional feedback, feel free to comment in the document or send a note to [epristoop@carnegiefoundation.org](mailto:epristoop@carnegiefoundation.org)

**Is this work you are already passionate about or are currently working on?**

GRAD Partnership is launching an implementation pilot. If interested, please follow up with [epristoop@carnegiefoundation.org](mailto:epristoop@carnegiefoundation.org)

# Closing and Next Steps

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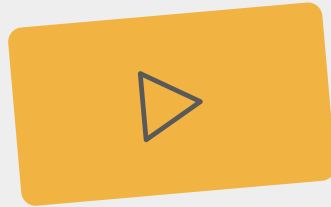
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# Keep the Conversation Going



## Snapshot

Summarizes the theme, next steps, and resources.



## Resources

Practical tools for building on postsecondary pathway work.



## Next Steps

Reflect on current student success system and postsecondary integration.

# Next Steps

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- Snapshot, slides and recording posted on GRAD Partnership website and emailed to participants.
- Help grow the network!
  - Invite your teammates and neighbors to upcoming sessions.

## Upcoming Themes

**May 14 @ 2pm ET**

*Data Visualization for Collaboration and Action*

**June 9 @ 1:30pm ET**

*Identifying and Communicating Successes*

# Thank You

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