

Reach Higher Goals and Activities: A Pennsylvania Sampler

As the commitment to First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Campaign (more detailed information at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher>) grows, more and more school counselors are responding to the challenge. Many Pennsylvania school counselors are already engaged in or planning to develop goals and activities for the "Reach Higher" initiative. Several Pennsylvania School Counselors have offered as examples their Reach High Goals and Activities. That sampling follows. Included as part of the descriptions are references to the PA Career Education and Work Standards, standards designed to ensure college and career success for Pennsylvania's students...and standards that support the Reach Higher Initiative Goals.

Grade Level: Elementary

CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 75% of all 5th grade student participate in taking virtual tours of colleges through youvisit.com

Reach Higher Activity: Students will participate in virtual college forms, and will complete an information page as they watch the tour. Students will be encouraged to learn additional facts about the college toured.

Grade Level: Elementary

CEW Standard: 13.1.3H Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Encouraging academic planning

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by providing classroom guidance lessons to 100% of 2nd graders on the correlation between careers and subjects needed to perform well in the career; including social skills and personality characteristics. After the lesson, at least 75% of 2nd graders will be able to identify one or more subjects/characteristics needed for their future career interest.

Reach Higher Activity: Students will watch a DVD clip on an introduction to careers and play a matching game of careers learned. Students will match the class subject to the career in order to understand the importance of the classes they are currently taking (I.e. "Bank teller" to "math" as "astronomer" is to "science").

Grade Level: Elementary

CEW Standards: 13.1.3F Explore how people prepare for careers.

13.1.3G Explain why education and training plans are important to careers.

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having all families in grades K-4 identify the types of post-secondary education that led to their careers.

Reach Higher Activity:

*Bulletin board with each family's post-secondary education written on a cut out of an arm and hand reaching upwards. So board will be filled with arms decorated by individual families.

(Name of School)'s Families Reached Higher by...

*Reach Higher newsletter to all K-4 families with info about Reach Higher Initiative, description of different options for post-secondary learning and discussion starters for family dinner time.

*Daily themes for K-4 students to learn about different types of post-secondary options (college day, military day, technical training day etc)

Grade Level: Elementary

CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by helping 90% of elementary students identify careers that are nontraditional for their gender.

Reach Higher Activity: I will have classroom discussions with students, asking them what they would like to be when they grow up, discuss some of the things that people in that profession do, and have them draw a picture of themselves in that profession. We will also identify nontraditional careers based on gender and will identify people who are in those careers breaking the stereo type i.e. Astronauts, Nurses, Firefighters, Mechanics, etc.

Grade Level: Elementary

CEW Standards: 13.1.3 A,B,F

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities.

Reach Higher Goal: Kindergarten students will complete "Have a Dream" lesson. Students will discuss what they "dream" about doing in the future, illustrating what that will look like on the handout.

Reach Higher Activity: Kindergarteners will complete "Have a Dream" lesson.

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle

CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 95% of 5th grade students explore/research various careers.

Reach Higher Activity: During computer class, 5th grade students will research different careers (using websites, such as www.pacareerzone.org). Students will develop a way to highlight and share the key points of the careers (i.e how much education needed, how much money you make, interests/skills related to the career, etc.) through a brochure, power point, etc.

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle

CEW Standards: 13.1.3.F; 13.1.3.G; 13.1.5.D; 13.1.5.E

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: All students grades K-5, will be exposed to several colleges and post-secondary schools during the months of January and February via daily announcements and "alumni Fridays"

Reach Higher Activity: 1. Outside of each classroom are identification cards for each teacher/faculty/staff member showcasing the teacher's training school (college/post-secondary). All showcased school pennants are hanging outside of the school counselor's office.

2. During the months of January and February 2015 - each Friday several schools will be showcased via the daily announcements (throughout the week)- teachers/staff will be encouraged to wear any alumni gear and students will be challenged to find the teachers being showcased that week.

3. Each day of that week, different schools will be reviewed including: distance in miles from the elementary school; hours in driving from the elementary school; location of the school; how many students attend; and how many teachers are alumni. Teachers will be encouraged to share information with students when their school is showcased.

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle, High
CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation
Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 90% of 6th graders identify at least 1 career, and the education and/or training required for the career.

Reach Higher Activity: I will have students take a career interest inventory and identify one career in which they are interested, and the requirements needed for that career. I would also like them to identify some action steps on how that would be achieved.

Grade Level: Middle
CEW Standard: 13.1.8.D (Explain the relationship between career training programs to employment opportunities)
Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 90% of all middle school students know the difference between the various post secondary opportunities and how continued education results in employment.

Reach Higher Activity: During NSCW, a post-secondary fair could be set up during lunch time where representatives from local schools would be available to answer questions and share information about their school and degrees/programs of study.

Grade Level: Middle
CEW Standard: 13.1.8.G (Create an individualized career plan)
Reach Higher Action Goal:

Encouraging academic planning and summer learning opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 100% of 8th grade students have a post-secondary plan before entering high school.

Reach Higher Activity: During NSCW, the counselor will present a lesson to 8th grade students using Career Cruising. Students will complete an interest inventory and be given time to research various careers. Students will then complete an academic plan detailing possible future careers, a high school cluster, and courses that relate to the chosen career.

Grade Level: Middle
CEW Standard: The PA CEW standard that is supported by this activity is 13.1- Career Awareness and Preparation.
Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities.

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher, on February 6, 2015, by having 98% of my middle school students (grade 6-8) get information about a college their homeroom teacher graduated from.

Reach Higher Activity: Teachers will decorate their doors based on the college/university they attended. Students will listen to their homeroom teacher discuss their school, college life, grades needed, classes attended, and how to prepare for college. Students will complete and submit a form (provided by the school counselor), answering questions based off of the teacher's information, by the end of homeroom that day.

Grade Level: Middle

CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation

13.1.8.A: Relate careers to individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes.

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Encourage academic planning and summer learning opportunities.

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having all 7th graders utilize their Holland Occupational Assessment themes (administered in Fall of 2014) to research career clusters and the required training needed based on their interests, abilities, and aptitudes.

Reach Higher Activity: Have all 7th graders:

1. Identify 3 career fields based on the 16 career clusters as outlined in the National Career Clusters Framework and
2. Identify the training/pathway needed for one of the 3 career fields.

Grade Level: Middle

CEW Standard: 13.1.8 Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 75% of the 7th grade students be able to identify their "Spark" by the end of the school year.

"Spark" is defined as what motivates them to do great things. This is their passion, when people have a passion to pursue they are more focused and motivated to do wonderful things.

Reach Higher Activity: Career Morning. Invite 5 speakers to talk about their careers to 7th grade students. The speakers are chosen by looking at areas that provide a good possibility of employment in our region. They are chosen out of a database of parent and community members. The 7th grade students will hear each speaker for about 30 minutes.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11 Career Awareness and Preparation.

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities.

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 95% of Juniors research 4 or more colleges at the National College Fair on February 5th.

Reach Higher Activity: Have the Juniors complete an information form (provided by the school counselor) for 4 colleges while at the College Fair, then turn it in upon leaving the Fair.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11.B- Analyze career options based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements, and goals

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Encouraging academic planning

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by increasing the sign-ups for the practice SAT/ACT combination test by at least 5% this year.

Reach Higher Activity: Our high school has partnered with Kaplan to host a practice SAT/ACT combo test for students to take to prepare them for the actual tests

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11.F; 13.1.11.H

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Understanding financial aid eligibility that can make college affordability a reality

Reach Higher Goal: I will provide a minimum of three opportunities for Financial Aid literacy to both students and parents in both print and web-based formats, as well as an in-person FAFSA completion session available to all seniors and parents provided by PHEAA.

Reach Higher Activity: Financial Aid trivia. Questions posed on morning announcements; answers provided, prizes awarded.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11.H

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Encourage Academic Planning and Summer Learning Opportunities.

Reach Higher Goal: I will meet with each Junior in February or March to review his/her senior year course selection, discuss post--secondary plans and review transcript.

Reach Higher Activity: Individual one-hour meetings with each junior and at least one parent will be scheduled.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11.G

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing Students to College & Career Opportunities.

Understanding Financial Aid eligibility that can make college affordability a reality.

Reach Higher Goal: At least 20% of each class' parent(s) will attend the appropriate session.

Reach Higher Activity: Host an annual Financial Aid Night (seniors) and Getting Ready For College Night (juniors) for parents.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1 Career Awareness and Preparation.

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: I will reach higher by having 100% of North Hills juniors make preliminary career and college planning decisions via an ICP (Individualize Career Plan) during the January 22 meetings with school counselors.

Reach Higher Activity: All juniors will be introduced to and complete an ICP during classroom lessons presented by school counselors.

Grade Level: High

CEW Standard: 13.1.11B,C,D

Reach Higher Action Goal:

Exposing students to college and career opportunities

Reach Higher Goal: 40% (26 students) of our senior class will complete a job shadowing experience prior to graduation

Reach Higher Activity: Students will complete a reflection sheet upon the completion of the job shadow experience.

Grade Level: High School

CEW Standard 13.1.11 Career Awareness and Preparation

Reach Higher Action Goal

Exposing Students to College and Career Opportunities

Reach Higher Goal

I will reach higher by having 97% of juniors research three occupations during developmental classroom lessons Feb 2-5th.

Reach Higher Activity

11th grade students will complete the CIP (career interest profiler). They will then complete CIP worksheet, identifying their results using Holland codes, matching it to 3 occupations, researching educational requirements, job outlook, wages, tasks and skills, and work environment.

Additionally they will review colleges, and begin the college search through Naviance during this lesson. This lesson will help them complete the steps required for their graduation project presentation in June.