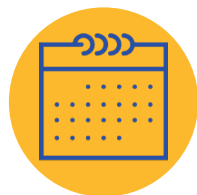




# 5 Ways to Demystify College



## 1. Start Early and Often.

Expose students to as many college opportunities as you can, as early as you can. Build in class time for college exploration! August is a great time to bring in admissions reps from local colleges to speak with younger students. Admissions reps are more willing to come and speak with older kids, especially seniors, September to November. Many universities also offer virtual tours on their websites.

## 2. Communicate With College Admissions Reps.

It is so important to establish relationships with college admissions reps. They will trust your judgement when recommending students and help you keep tabs on how your students are doing in college. Try setting up an Application Workshop Day with your local reps! There's a chance they can waive admissions fees and accept unofficial transcripts and test scores, making it extremely easy for students to apply early with lots of guidance and little excuse.



## 3. Build Your Students' Comfort Levels.

The more campuses they see, the more comfortable they feel. Work with the universities to see how many students they can accommodate and if they offer financial assistance for students to visit. Some schools will give the students free lunch or offer to pay for buses to get the kids there. The more opportunities they have to see multiple schools, the easier it will be for them to choose the college that is best for them.

## 4. Take the Parents.

Try to invite parents to come on college field trips too. Then they can build their own comfort level. This is especially important for first-generation college students, whose parents may not have a clear picture of what college will be like for their child. Once they visit one campus, they are more likely to take their children to visit additional campuses. This is also a way to get free chaperones!



## 5. Share Multiple Postsecondary Options.

Exposing students to four-year universities is important, but that's just one postsecondary option. Work with your counseling department to help students research careers. Not all students will want to pursue careers that require them to go to a four-year university. Look at the careers your students are interested in and reach out to local technical schools and community college departments who specialize in corresponding certificate programs. Ask them to come in and make admissions presentations. You can invite a branch of the military to speak with seniors too. This allows students to see more of their options in addition to four-year schools.

To read the full blog, visit [www.avid.org/blog](http://www.avid.org/blog)