

College fairs play an important role in the lives of high school students, especially for those unable to arrange campus tours or visits. These fairs provide students with the opportunity to ask questions and gather valuable information, like degree programs, class size, etc. And, for students who've never thought of college as an opportunity for them, college fairs can open their eyes to the possibility of higher education.

To help your students make the most of college fairs, we've developed some ideas and tools to encourage learning during these fairs.

- Prior to attending the fair, encourage your students to visit OKcollegestart.org. This site offers valuable information about planning for college and provides students with a variety of data under the Career Center tab. Ask your students to complete the information on the Student - Career Matching Assistant to gather information about potential career options.
- Based on their assessment, ask your students to write their top three career possibilities on the college fair worksheet. Encourage them to visit school booths and ask about degree programs that match their career interests.
- Be sure to invite the parents to attend college fairs. Many families make the college choice a family decision. Get parents involved in the process early.
- Contact the high school or university hosting the nearest college fair to find out in advance which college representatives will be attending. Pass this information along to your students so they can start plotting out what booths they'll want to visit and what questions they'll want to ask. Encourage them to do research on school websites before attending the fair.
- Check with teachers and ask if students can have bonus points in their class if they complete the college fair worksheet.
- If possible, require students to fill out the worksheet, or provide them an incentive (a T-shirt, candy, etc.) for completing the assignment.
- Have a pre-college fair meeting with your students and talk to them about the benefits of attending a college or technical school after high school. Tell them that higher education can be a stepping stone to their future goals.
- Encourage students to visit the UCanGo2/State Regents for Higher Education exhibit table. This booth provides helpful information about planning and paying for college.
- Most colleges offer scholarships to incoming freshmen who meet certain eligibility requirements. Have your students inquire about free money offered to attend the school of their choice.