



## Talking with Eighth Grade Students

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help prepare our Denver Public Schools (DPS) current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for their future.

Eighth grade students are usually 13-14 years old. Developmentally, their thoughts are moving from very concrete, black-and-white concepts to more abstract thinking. **To make this a meaningful experience for students, please bring tangible hands on activities or items for students that encourage their involvement in your exhibit.** As this is a new experience for most of our eighth grade students, they may be overwhelmed and unsure as to how best to approach you. It is a great idea for you to **reach out to the students as they pass your table and offer information to them,** as opposed to waiting for students to approach you.

Specifically the information you share will support students with:

1. Choosing potential career opportunities.
2. Choosing specific high school courses.
3. Improving their understanding of the correlation between high school courses and their chosen career pathway.
4. Becoming aware of how their unique skills increase their chance for success in specific careers.
5. Increasing their awareness of potential volunteer opportunities.

**As you prepare your presentation and materials for the DPS career fair, here are a few questions to consider.**

Having answers to these questions should help facilitate your conversations with students.

- What is the job outlook for this career?
- What high school courses do you recommend students take to be prepared for this career? (English, math, science, history, specific electives....)
- What experiences outside the classroom should students pursue to be adequately prepared for this career? (Extracurricular activities-sports, clubs; internships; volunteering; on-the-job training.....)
- How much education will students need to pursue this career?
- What is the salary range for this career?
- What personal skills or qualities would be beneficial for students pursuing this career?
- What ideas do you have for volunteer work for students interested in pursuing this career?

Students will be visiting tables based upon their results from the **College In Colorado Career Cluster Survey** they took prior to the fair. For more information on Career Clusters, visit [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org). Click on the Career Planning Tab, then click on Explore Careers and you will see a list of the 16 Career Clusters on the left side of the page. Click on the Career Cluster representing your industry for more details. This will assist you with answering questions the students may pose in addition to those listed below. There is no need to create an account for this basic information.

In addition, students will have a few questions to ask you. We have provided each student a booklet in which to record answers. Here is the list of questions to better help you prepare for the day.

- What do you like most about this Career?
- What do you find most challenging about this Career?
- What education/training is required for this Career?
- What Salary or pay rate can I expect for this Job/Career?
- What can I do to prepare myself NOW for this Career?

The Career Fair will be a busy, high energy day with approximately 4500 students participating! Thank you for your time, energy and support of Denver Public Schools' eighth grade students.