



Frequently Asked Questions

Why was College Application Week changed to College Knowledge Month?

A month-long effort will allow students to do more than just submit an application. Applying is only *one step* of the college application process – the result of thoughtful exploration and planning. Within this expanded time frame, students can participate in the application process at their own pace -- and find the best college fit for them. Counselors and high school staff will have more time to draft recommendations, secure transcripts and/or fee waivers and support underrepresented students. Schools can build upon or establish a college-going culture by utilizing the college exploration activities that already take place in the fall of the academic year.

What does this mean for a participating school?

A month will allow schools time to integrate a college-readiness curriculum into their programming and communication with families. October is a natural time for this to occur, since there are already college exploration opportunities taking place across the state (i.e. National College Fair, local college fairs, early decision application deadlines, college visits). Schools will have access to volunteers earlier in the planning process this year – and will not have to compete with other schools/districts for their busy schedules if College Knowledge Month activities are spread throughout a month instead of a week.

What are the expectations for participating schools and site coordinators?

Your College Knowledge Month event(s) can occur any time during the month of October - schools are not required to participate in the entire month. Participating schools are expected to devote time and space during the school day for college exploration activities – including support for seniors to complete college applications. Schools are encouraged, but not required, to integrate other college exploration events into the month – such as essay writing workshops or a parent night. New schools should start small and build on what works well. Returning schools should expand on successes they have had in the past.

What support will participating schools and site coordinators receive?

The College Knowledge Month steering committee will provide resources, materials, support and training for registered sites to assist with their programming. **Volunteer information and student incentives will be available to sites that register by June 15.** (After that date, registrations will still be accepted, but access to volunteers cannot be guaranteed).

Planning Timeline

June 15 – Preferred Site Registration Deadline

August 12 – Site Coordinator Resource Manual available online – notified by email

August 12 – Site Coordinator Training Webinar available online – notified by email

August 16 – Volunteer Registration Deadline

September 1 – Site Coordinators receive volunteer contact information

September 20 – Site Coordinator Training Session (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Questions?

Beth Barsness, MN Department of Education | 651.582.8336 or beth.barsness@state.mn.us

Angie Johnson, MN Department of Education | 651.582.8478 or angie.johnson@state.mn.us

