



COLLEGE KNOWING & GOING

HOW COLLEGE READINESS TEAMS CAN SUPPORT COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS DURING COVID 19

"A pivot is a change in strategy without a
change in vision."

INCORPORATE ACT TEST PREP INTO DISTANCE LEARNING

Educators know that personalized learning takes time and targeted instruction to be effective. ACT offers educators and students a huge index of educational games, videos, practice assessments and tutorials.

ACT is Providing Free Digital Learning Resources for Students and Educators impacted by COVID-19. Visit ACT online at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>.

For Students & Parents -

- **ACT Academy:** ACT Academy™ is a free online learning resource for students seeking to improve their academic skills through individualized learning plans. ACT Academy offers a collection of resources from some of the best publishers online including NASA, Crash Course, GeoGebra, PBS, and tens of thousands of others.
- **Free Kaplan Test Prep:** Provided by Kaplan, these ACT test prep sessions and events feature digital learning and live online instruction.
- **College Research Worksheet:** This free guide, offered through the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), helps students understand match, fit and cost when researching colleges and identifying which schools they want apply to.

For Educators -

- **icurio:** Through icurio®, teachers receive free, instant access to more than 360,000 curated, vetted and maintained standards-aligned resources from the best open educational resource (OER) providers.
- **Social and Emotional Learning Home Connections:** Parent materials and student worksheets are free core tools and strategies for social and emotional learning that can be used at home.
- **HERA Science:** An adaptive learning system for middle school students aimed to develop scientific reasoning and foster confidence in STEM.
- **ACT Academy:** Teachers can use ACT® Academy to gauge their students' mastery of math, English/ language arts and science concepts, providing essential feedback for individual learning.

No Computer? No Problem. Send Home Free ACT Test Booklets

- School Ordering Instructions: visit <https://readiness.act.org>. Select 'Go To Ordering.' Once you have logged in, click on the shopping cart and select ACT Support Materials. Continue following the prompts until the ordering process is complete and an order confirmation number displays on the screen.

Help Students Keep Minds Sharp Via Text

- Get Schooled can help students stay sharp during quarantine! Students can sign up for the Daily Knowledge Text Challenge and from April 1st to April 15th they'll receive daily questions covering math, grammar and vocabulary, reading, and critical thinking. Each question is pulled directly from real SAT and ACT tests. After the two-week mini-challenge, it doesn't have to end - students can keep receiving questions for another round. Have your students text 'KNOWLEDGE' to 33-55-77 to sign-up today. Find more details at <https://getschooled.com/article/5465-sign-up-for-the-daily-knowledge-text-challenge/>

CONNECT ELA TO COLLEGE PREPARATION

Help students understand critical steps in the college going process while teaching reading and writing standards for informative text.

Examples of College Focused Articles and Research Studies (9-12.RI.1-10)

- Ma, Jennifer, et al. "Education Pays 2019: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society." *College Board Trends in Education Series*. Jan. 2020. <https://research.collegeboard.org/pdf/education-pays-2019-full-report.pdf>
- Moody, Josh. "How the Coronavirus Affects College Admissions." *U.S. News & World Reports*. 18 March 2020. <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/how-the-coronavirus-affects-college-admissions>
- Roderick, Melissa and et al. "From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College." *Case Studies*. Mar. 2008. https://consortium.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/2018-10/9641ccsr_potholes_casestudies.pdf

Encourage Students to Take Virtual Campus Tours and Write About Their Findings (9-12.W.2)

- Colleges are tapping into 360-degree video and virtual reality to welcome prospective students to campus from hundreds or even thousands of miles away. A virtual tour can function as an early sorting tool for students weighing colleges or as a substitute for those unable to visit. CampusTours.com highlights 15 Arizona Universities and Community Colleges as well as schools throughout the country. <https://campustours.com/>

EMBED FAFSA INTO ECONOMICS

The economic and financial literacy standards promote the concepts and tools necessary to make decisions that will enable individuals and societies to be as well off as possible. What better opportunity to learn about Federal Student Aid and ways to pay for a postsecondary education?

FAFSA Article for Students

- Nauer, Kim and Sandra Salmans. "FAFSA: The How to Guide for High School Students." *Center for New York City Affairs – The New School*. <http://www.understandingfafsa.org/assets/FAFSA-final.pdf>

FAFSA Resources for Students

- Paying for college starts with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Submitting an application is the key to accessing grants, scholarships, work-study programs and federal student loans. While filling out the form may seem daunting, it doesn't have to be. The Students Page lists tools and resources to help you and your family complete your application. <https://fafsachallenge.az.gov/how-apply/students>

FAFSA Videos

- Federal Student Aid, an Office of the U.S. Dept. of Education, helps make a college education possible for every dedicated mind by providing more than \$150 billion each year in grants, loans, & work-study funds. For videos, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/FederalStudentAid/featured>.

Real Life Research

- The U.S. Department of Education created a searchable database of colleges and universities to provide information on cost of attendance, financial aid and average debt, retention and graduation rates, and post-graduation earnings. Data on student debt load and earnings by field of study are now available, as well as data on program-level outcomes, certificate-granting institutions and additional data on graduation rates. <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrators, counselors and teachers all play an integral role in preparing students for life beyond high school. Two CRT sites are currently using stipend funds to train teachers and other school stakeholders on essential college-going processes.

Financial Aid & College Applications

April 27 – May 29, 2020

- Navigating the financial aid and college admission processes can be tricky. That's why we're offering a four-week course to help you learn the ins and outs of financial literacy, financial aid, completing the FAFSA and preparing college applications for only \$75.

AzCAN 2020 Summer Series

May 18 – August 28

- AzCAN is offering another summer College Access Professional Training course starting in May. This course will give participants resources to help better prepare their students for a future beyond high school. This course is designed for anyone in the college access field and aligns to ECAP guidelines and A-F Accountability plans. To date, more than 110 educators have completed the course series and have earned their Arizona College Access Professional certificate. Cost of participation is \$250 per individual or \$2,000 for a team of 10.

AzCAN's Statewide Professional Development Calendar and Registration can be found by visiting <https://collegesuccessarizona.org/who-we-are/about-us/azcan/professional-development-calendar>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There's now more time to do many of the things that often got lost in the shuffle due to homework, sports and meet ups. Now is the time to build a scholarship database and start really looking for scholarship opportunities.

Scholarship Websites

- College Depot <https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>
- Big Future <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- Fast Web <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Arizona Community Foundation <https://www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/InvestinginEducationforArizonasFuture.aspx>

GENERAL FAFSA RESOURCES

Arizona FAFSA Toolkit

- This online resource is geared towards counselors, students and families to assist with the FAFSA process. In addition to resources specific to students and counselors, the toolkit also includes a FAFSA 101 section that provides an overview of the FAFSA process and steps on how to complete the FAFSA from beginning to end. <https://fafsachallenge.az.gov/fafsa-toolkit>

Upcoming FAFSA Webinar

Robot Rising: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence is Changing FAFSA Completion in Arizona

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM MST

- Students and counselors are overwhelmed with the intricacies of submitting a FAFSA as well as the number of students needing one-on-one assistance with complex family or financial situations. If this sounds familiar, may we introduce Benji, a fully conversational FAFSA chatbot programmed to respond 24-7 to hundreds of FAFSA and financial aid questions. It's not an app, there's no download required. Learn how to incorporate Benji into your college readiness efforts, and how to implement Benji to engage students individually. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6267531143790306573>
- For more information, go to www.askbenji.com, or you can text Benji at 602-786-8171 for any of your FAFSA-related questions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit College Success Arizona's website for Resources and Webinars

- College Success Arizona and the Arizona College Access Network have created a comprehensive list of resources to support schools, students and families. <https://collegesuccessarizona.org/covid-19-resources/>

ASU Prep Digital

- ASU is committed to helping students, families and schools make a smooth transition to remote learning. ASU Prep Digital is offering a variety of free resources including student tutoring, online course materials, school training and school support. <https://www.asuprepdigital.org/asu-for-you/>