

EARLY COLLEGE DESIGN SERVICES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Jobs for the Future helps districts significantly increase the number of students who graduate from high school and are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education.



JFF provides districts with training, tools, and advice that transform schools serving young people underrepresented in higher education: low-income youth, English language learners, and first-generation college-goers. Districts substantially increase the number of high school students who complete two or more college-level courses in core subjects, demonstrating that they are well prepared to succeed in further education.

Instructional and leadership coaching. JFF's field-tested instructional model and coaching program accelerates learning among underperforming students so they tackle and master college material.

School design and development. For each partner district, JFF designs a flexible portfolio of Early College Design schools that lead to college-ready graduation. These can include dual enrollment for all, rigorous career and technical education, STEM preparation, and dropout recovery options.

District capacity-building. JFF helps districts assess their strengths and identify areas of need. We then work with these districts to create and sustain strategic plans, develop strong postsecondary partnerships, and use data to support and promote change.

EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP

JFF and its partners have made "college for all" a reality for young people, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Early College High Schools. Since 2002, JFF has coordinated the *Early College High School Initiative*, a network of more than 230 small schools that blend high school and college. The four-year graduation rate for early colleges is 92 percent, and 86 percent of graduates enroll in postsecondary education immediately after high school. Students underrepresented in higher education earn college credits and even Associate's degrees while in high school, tuition free. Early colleges serve 50,000 students, primarily young people of color and from low-income homes.

University Park Campus School. JFF's professional training institute at UPKS in Worcester, Massachusetts, provides the foundation for emulating this public school's record; more than 95 percent of graduates have gone on to college. UPKS serves a high-poverty, largely immigrant population, with most students entering far below grade level. Yet the dropout rate is zero and every student participates in an honors curriculum and college

preparatory experiences at neighboring Clark University, earning college credits before graduation. Principals, teachers, and other instructional leaders from around the country have participated in trainings at UPKS, bringing JFF's instructional strategies and resources back to their own districts.

COLLEGE FOR ALL IN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

JFF's collaboration with the South Texas district of Pharr-San Juan-Alamo is transforming the entire district to provide early college for all.

The goal: all 32,000 of its young people will graduate from high school with at least 12 college credits—including dropouts and those considered at risk.

Nearby Hidalgo, Texas, where nearly every student is Hispanic and low-income, adopted an early college district approach in 2005. More than 95 percent of the Class of 2010 graduated with college credits, and two-thirds of the seniors graduated with at least a full semester of college credit.

JFF'S DISTRICT SERVICES

INSTRUCTIONAL AND LEADERSHIP COACHING

- > **In-person and online professional development for teachers** to use a coherent, college-ready instructional framework across grade levels and disciplines
- > **Leadership coaching and training for principals** and other school administrators to lead strong, consistent instruction
- > **Training for instructional coaches** to spread and sustain effective professional development in all schools
- > **Peer-learning opportunities** that bring together staff from partnering Early College Design schools to share best practices, deepen and refine improvements, and sustain their progress
- > **Tools and exemplars** developed through our work with high-performing schools, such as classroom observation rubrics and case studies presenting common dilemmas

SCHOOL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- > **Back on Track school development** that puts dropouts and other off-track youth on the path to postsecondary success
- > **Integration of career and technical education** with a college-ready curriculum, leading to STEM and other postsecondary pathways
- > **College partnership support** to craft course sequences that enable all high school students to earn college credits
- > **Message development** that helps leaders communicate a "college for all" mission and related expectations to school staff, students, families, and partners

DISTRICT CAPACITY-BUILDING

- > **Audits of school support services and district policies**, with an emphasis on curriculum, instruction, and professional development
- > **Analyses of student and teacher data** to aid school and district leaders in setting goals, tracking progress, and determining what students need and how resources are used
- > **Strategic planning support** that builds on existing capacity—such as dual enrollment programs—to move all students toward college readiness
- > **Leadership coaching** and just-in-time advice for superintendents and others as they shape, launch, and implement their strategic plans
- > **Documentation**, including case studies of promising schools and reports, to help identify and make the case for next steps

ACHIEVING AMBITIOUS GOALS

College readiness cannot be left to chance: all students must be prepared at high levels so they have the opportunity to pursue the education they need and enter careers that will sustain and satisfy them over a lifetime. Schools and districts have big challenges before them in meeting that ambitious goal. Highly effective schools have shown what works, and JFF can provide tools, training, and advice to match their standard of success: college readiness for all.



For more information on JFF's Early College Design Services, contact Associate Vice President LaVonne Sheffield, lsheffield@jff.org, 617.728.4446

Jobs for the Future develops, implements, and promotes new education and workforce strategies that help communities, states, and the nation compete in a global economy. In over 200 communities across 43 states, JFF improves the pathways leading from high school to college to family-sustaining careers. For more than 25 years, JFF has been a leader in helping states and districts develop and implement school designs that prepare young people underrepresented in higher education to succeed at the postsecondary level.



JOB'S FOR THE FUTURE

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