**College Fairs**

**Before Attending a College Fair**

Students should research colleges they are interested in through the colleges’ websites prior to a college fair experience. Knowing basic information about different colleges will help students decide which colleges they would like to gather more information about at a college fair. Here are some examples of the information that can be found on a college’s website:

* General information on the college
* Admission requirements and procedures
* Academics
* Programs and majors offered at the college
* Tuition and fees

**During the College Fair**

Students can identify programs that may be a good fit and rule out any options they are not interested in from the information gathered at a college fair. Here are examples of the information that can be gathered at a college fair:

* More in-depth information on programs and majors offered
* Career planning services
* Student support services
* Information on class sizes and instruction
* Financial aid opportunities

**Preparing Students for the College Fair**

Taking time to prepare students for a college fair will help students maximize their time and gather the information they need. To prepare students for a successful college fair experience:

* Identify the representatives they want to be sure to visit
	+ Use the map for the college fair to plan how to navigate the room
	+ Create a checklist of colleges the student is interested in meeting with to make sure they talk to all of the school representatives they identified at the fair
	+ After the student visits the schools they were interested in at the fair, have them identify any other schools that interest them
* Teach strategies for making a good first impression
	+ Properly introducing themselves
	+ Showing good communication skills such as good body language
* Role-play conversations that may take place with college representatives
	+ Practice asking and answering questions
	+ Practice strategies for continuing conversations when asking yes or no questions
	+ Practice ending a conversation
* Develop questions that will help students get information they would not be able to find on a website
	+ Can you tell me more about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ program?
	+ What is the average class size?
	+ How are professors available to students for questions?
	+ Does your college offer career planning services?
	+ What student support services are available?
	+ What is the process for requesting accommodations?