



DRAFT(as of 7/18/2011): **Charleston Promise Neighborhood**

Abstract/Proposed Model for: "CQ" - College Quotient *(aka College-Bound Culture Proposal)*

Introduction: To insure "*Transformation within a Generation*" and to *cultivate an environment - early* in the educational process - *where every child in our Neighborhood will have a clear path to college and greater confidence in their potential for success*, Charleston Promise Neighborhood is working with the Neighborhood's elementary schools as well as various college culture consultants and numerous community partners to infuse a college-bound culture at each of the CPN Elementary Schools. Drawing from best practices, we will focus on enhancing the environment, attitudes and practices to *embed a college-bound culture in every aspect of the learning environment making it evident the moment you walk in the door*. A variety of tools and supports will be provided to make it easier for teachers, administrators, staff, and parents to help elementary school students envision a brighter future with a variety of pathways clearly available to them for a successful life journey and education beyond high school.

Goal: *Make college attendance and completion a very real, viable, and exciting opportunity in the minds of Charleston Promise Neighborhood elementary school students. . . to increase students' "CQ."*

The College-Bound Philosophy: Evidence from best practices would suggest that the following factors exist in schools that have succeeded in creating a college-bound culture. Thus, these conditions will guide efforts to insure that students in CPN Elementary Schools envision college as a viable and desirable option for their future.

- **Enriched Educational Environment:** Visible signs and symbols will demonstrate that "college is on our minds" and raise comfort levels with the college environment.
- **College Educated and Caring Role Models:** Students will be exposed to college-oriented role models and develop a trusting relationship with "**at least one**" college educated adult who believes in their potential.
- **Success Oriented Expectations:** Parental, school and community expectations will reflect our belief that all CPN children are capable of success in college and that college attendance is the norm.
- **Habit of Student Involvement:** Since college students who invest time and energy in the total learning experience are more likely to succeed, we will cultivate good habits of greater student involvement at the elementary school level in preparation for success in college.
- **College Oriented Practices and Activities:** Exposure to college related activities and personnel will become routine and college information and examples will be infused throughout the learning environment.

Possible First Steps *(Types of Tools/Mechanisms/Supports to be created)*

The following ideas are first steps to be undertaken to create a college-bound culture:

"CQ 1.0" (year #1) - to be initiated NOW:

- **Decorate the halls** with college related materials, pictures and symbols.
- **Create College Crew bios** for all of the teachers that highlight their educational journey.
- **Give every child a T-shirt** that says "**Got CQ? I do!**"
- **Develop "CQ" Tool Kits** to facilitate conversations and activities about college *(for parents/family members, lunch buddies & other existing volunteers)*
- Empower a "**CQ" Steering Committee** *(One joint group for all 4 schools)*
- Create a **College Resource Directory** for teachers (listing local college professionals/potential guest speakers)
- Recruit a team of **College Culture Consultants** to serve as a sounding board and ongoing advisors.
- Begin to create a **College-Bound section of the library** *(kids books and reference books)*
- **Provide a Glossary of terms** to encourage teachers & administrators to use college-oriented language/labels.

- **Conduct a baseline survey** on current attitudes about going to college (*for students & teachers*)

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"CQ 2.0" (year #2) might focus on:

- **College Boosters** - recruit local colleges, alumni groups, honor societies, corporations and/or non-profit organizations to adopt each CPN school, grade level or classroom to become their college oriented sponsor (*providing volunteers, support, insights and ongoing infusion of college oriented people & activities*)
- **"At Least One" Volunteers:** recruit and match students with at least one person who cares (*train them to serve as distant pen pals, successful college buddies and/or in person road map navigators*).
- **Speakers Bureau** to engage college-educated people in conversations in the classrooms/with groups of CPN students about their educational journey and road map to success.
- Help students develop a **"CQ Promise"** to be read/recited every day.
- Provide **ideas/modules** for teachers to **infuse college examples** in class exercises and activities.
- Use **college-related items** (shirts, hats, jackets, pennants) **as rewards** for positive behavior & achievement.

"CQ 3.0" (year #3) and beyond: Other Ideas to be explored/considered:

- Develop **college buddies/pen pal program** that connects individual students with a successful college student.
- Sponsor **field trips** to expose students, parents and teachers to the college environment.
- **Educate parents, community leaders, volunteers** and other **adults** about supporting a college-going culture.
- **Preparing a Roadmap** - Provide tools for educators, parents and volunteers to help students explore strengths and interests and to begin the conversation about pathways to careers and college
- **Celebrate milestones** - create mechanisms to publicly celebrate students' accomplishments as they shape a personal road map and increase their "CQ."
- Engage school personnel in **"student involvement chats"** and **"college talk"** (*how can I be more involved & how do I get to college?*)
- Host **college pride days** (wear your favorite college colors), **fashion show** (with college attire, athletic uniforms, etc.) or a **cap & gown parade** with academic regalia.
- **Bring college to school:** Host college events/meetings/etc. in the school (have children/parents help host).
- **Summer enrichment** - immerse CPN students in college oriented summer camps/experiences.
- Create/share **videos of CPN students** (with permission) talking about their future plans (college and career).
- Others?

Web Resources

- **College Ed: Creating a College Culture Guide** (by The College Board - 20 page guide)
http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/collegeed/collegeEd-create-college-going-culture.pdf
- **College Tools for Schools : Helping California Schools Prepare students for College**
(Center for Educational Partnerships at UC Berkeley)
http://collegetools.berkeley.edu/resources.php?cat_id=21
- **College Bound Culture Project** (California School Board Association)
<http://www.csba.org/TrainingAndEvents/Events/GoldenBell/ProgramWinners/BridgingTheAchievementGap/CollegBoundCulture.aspx>
- **College Next** (university and college presidents of California schools) www.collegenext.org
- **The College Place** (ECMC Foundation- Educational Credit Management Corporation)
http://www.ecmcfoundation.org/overview/College_Place.html Includes downloadable: **"Believing the College Dream"** Curriculum/ Workbook (for 4th - 8th grade & families)
<http://www.ecmcfoundation.org/details/believing.html>
- **Pathways to College** (through IHEP - Institute for Higher Education Policy) www.pathwaystocollege.net
- **TurnAround Schools No Excuses University:** <http://turnaroundschools.com/neu-network/>,
(also Book: **TurnAround Schools - Creating Cultures of Universal Achievement**)

For further information on this proposal or to offer suggestions, please contact:

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To Learn more about Charleston Promise Neighborhood, go to: www.CharlestonPromise.org