

**College and Career Readiness  
Component #12  
Quality Indicators**

**Guiding Principle:**

Expectant and parenting teens are linked to resources that promote their educational success, including readiness for post-secondary education/technical training to achieve career, economic and desired lifetime goals.

**Rationale:**

Expectant and parenting teens who set goals early, graduate from high school and complete postsecondary education/technical training are more likely to achieve their economic and professional goals and be employed in high demand, high wage and high skills job, contributing to the economy and a stable home life.

**Key Elements**

- GRADS staff demonstrate high expectations for all expectant and parenting teens.
- GRADS students are provided with diverse and flexible opportunities to determine their abilities, interests, work values and explore occupations and careers.
- GRADS students are provided with an array of educational resources support skill development assist with academic and career success and directly correlate with their postsecondary goals.
- GRADS students are encouraged to recognize individual career anchors and to pursue lifelong career and educational activities that utilize their gifts, talents and skills.
- GRADS students are prepared for their postsecondary plans.

**Quality Indicators**

- Monitor student attendance and academic performance in school.
- Ensure that each GRADS student has an up-to-date Next Step Plan on an annual basis to address educational and career needs and goals for that specific year.
- Assist GRADS students with developing a plan to maintain academic progress during extended absences.
- Utilize a Career Readiness curriculum and other career employability resources.
- Provide opportunities for GRADS students to participate in a variety of career interest inventories and skills assessments, such as Work Keys, and to explore the 16 Career Clusters and career pathways and the 7 New Mexico priority clusters.
- Provide opportunities for students to complete 3 major Work Keys Assessments (Locating Information, Applied Math and Reading for Information) to earn a Work Readiness certificate.

- Invite school counselors to present on educational goal setting, how educational courses link to college and technical training requirements and dual credit options.
- Discuss options of further education after high school, including career technical schools, colleges, universities, and military.
- Increase student awareness of 2-year and 4-year institutions, colleges and universities, and career and technical programs available in New Mexico and available scholarship opportunities, by providing resources and arranging field trips to local campuses.
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- Plan, prepare and host 1-2 day Career Academies for GRADS students that promote career exploration, identification and planning.
- Encourage GRADS students to participate in a relevant Career Technical Education program of study within specific career pathways and pursue opportunities for short term industry credentials and industry certification in areas such as Information Technology, Culinary Arts, STEM and Computer Programming and health care.
- Provide GRADS students with opportunities to practice interviewing skills develop resume writing skills and learn how to do a job search.
- Ensure that each GRADS student has an up-to-date and quality career portfolio that contains a resume, cover letter, three references, a letter of recommendation, certificates, transcripts, a personal reflection statement of goals required by scholarships and some colleges, FASFA, a career interest inventory with a top three interests, as well as a list potential scholarships to apply for.
- Increase student awareness of steps related to the college application process and job application process and support in establishing realistic timelines.
- Increase student awareness of opportunities for job training, mentoring, internships and apprenticeships.
- Increase student awareness of labor market information, including regional wage statistics and area employers.
- Provide opportunities for GRADS students to learn work readiness and life skills, including communication, work ethic, attitude, appearance, teamwork, networking, problem-solving, decision making and critical thinking, to achieve success in post-secondary studies and in employment.
- Assist students in developing a job search plan and provide access for students to resources with ongoing job opportunity information and continuing education assistance that can be utilized after graduation.