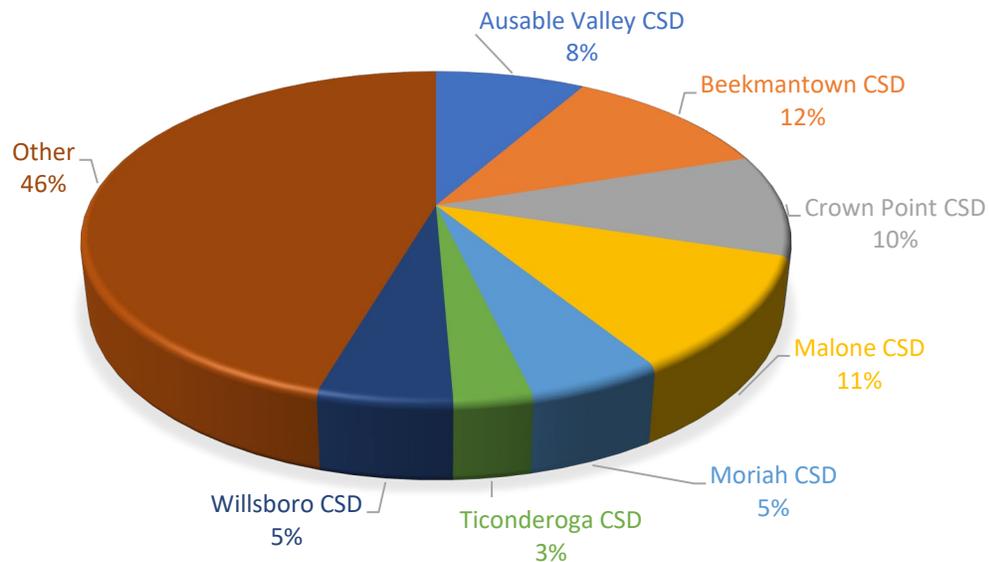


FAMILY COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS TRAINING – POST EVENT SURVEY, JANUARY 2022

At the conclusion of the Family College & Career Readiness Training, participants were asked to complete a brief online post event survey. Two hundred twenty-two (222) responses were received. Respondents provided school and grade level representation, as well as event feedback, continued information needs, and thoughts for training improvement.

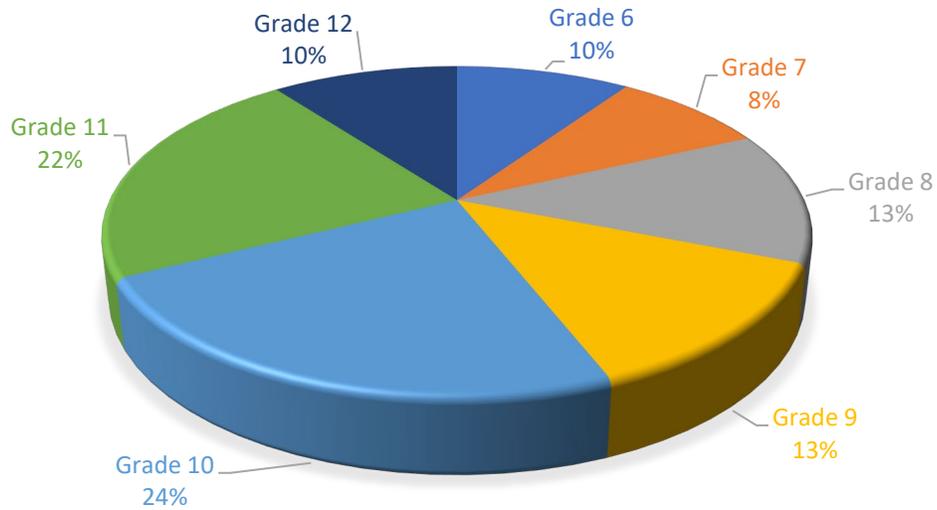
SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

In total, forty school districts participated. All CFES GEAR UP districts were represented. The CFES GEAR UP district with the single largest representation was Beekmantown CSD (27 participants) followed by Malone CSD (26 participants) and Crown Point CSD (23 participants). ‘Other’ captured school districts outside of CFES GEAR UP and there were participants from thirty-three districts. In addition to schools in upstate and downstate New York, participation spanned ten states/territories including Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Hawaii, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Vermont, Delaware, Maine, and Maryland. The largest participation among ‘other’ included New Hanover County Schools, NC (18 participants); Beverly Public School District, MA (10 participants); and Kalon Prep Academy, MN and Plattsburgh City Schools, NY (8 participants each).



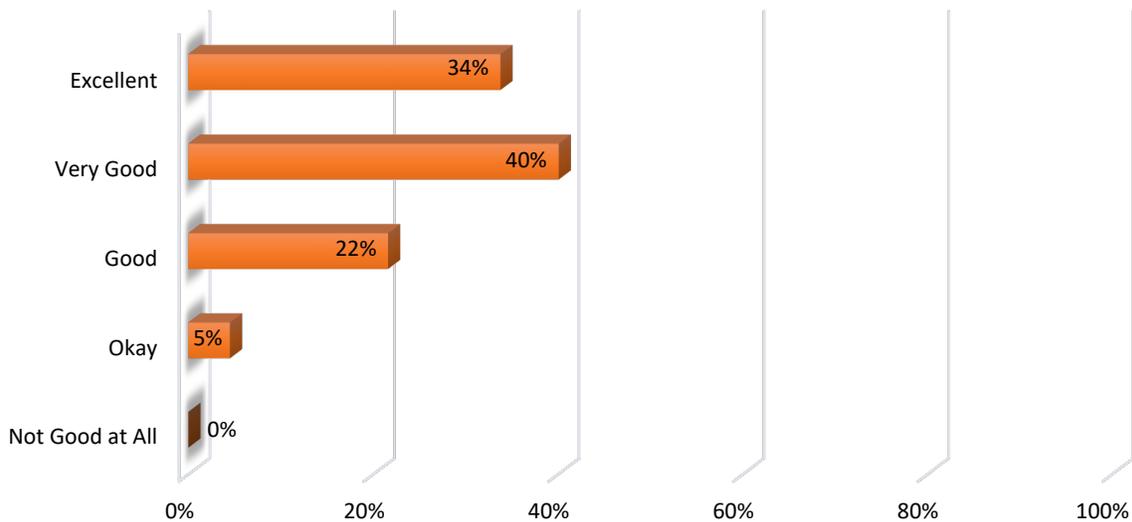
GRADE LEVEL REPRESENTATION

Parents/guardians were the primary attendees along with a handful of educators. They indicated the grade level(s) of their children or young persons served. As shown in the figure below, Grade 10 was represented most (24%), followed by grade 11 (22%). Grade 7 had the smallest representation at 8%.



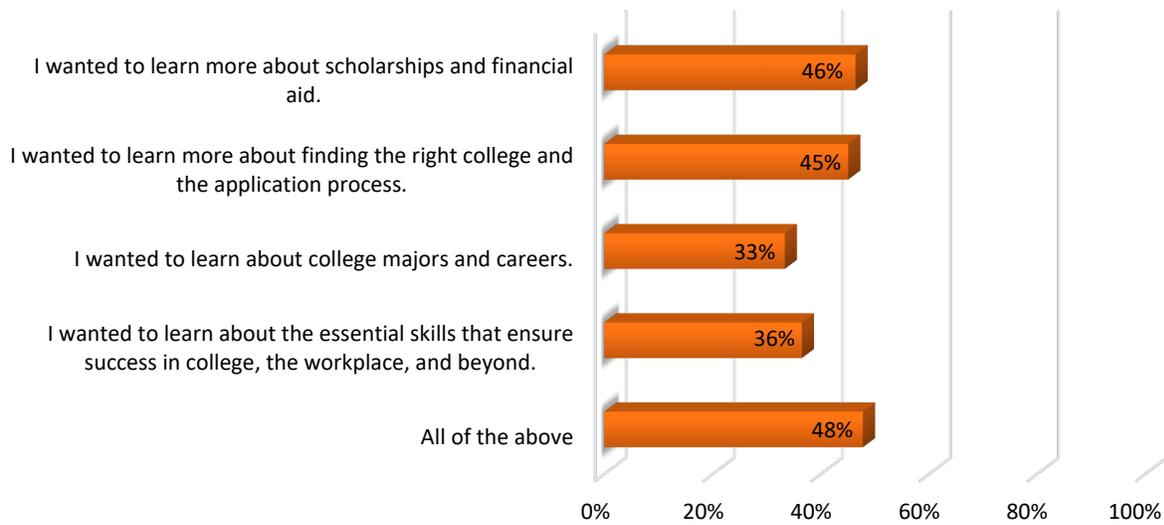
OVERALL EVENT RATING

The event was regarded well and received a 4.0 rating on a five-point scale with 1 being *Not Good at All* and 5 being *Excellent*. Overall, 74% rated the training as Very Good to Excellent. No one indicated Not Good at All.



REASONS FOR ATTENDING

Respondents were asked to indicate why they chose to attend the Family CCR Training. Four reasons/selections were provided that were aligned with the event agenda, as well as ‘all of the above’. Respondents could select all that applied. The chart gives the selection frequency for each option. Among individual options, ‘To learn more about scholarships and financial aid’ was selected most frequently (46%), followed by ‘To learn about finding the right college and the application process’ (45%).



PARTICIPATION IMPACT

Participants were asked if the event had increased their knowledge of college planning. The overwhelming response was yes with 214 or 96% of the 222 respondents responding in the affirmative that they felt ‘more knowledgeable about college planning for my son/daughter’ as a result of attending the Family CCR Training.

LINGERING QUESTIONS

A majority of respondents (90%) indicated the information provided during the training had answered their questions. Twenty-three participants checked they had remaining questions. Some noted needing time to digest all that they had learned or were new to process and while sure they had more questions were unsure what they were at the moment. Most outstanding questions pertain to financial aid and timelines for getting things done.

Outstanding Questions:

Where do we find the Brilliant Career Lab? Where do we find the college readiness timeline? Handouts were mentioned in the videos - how do we get these? How do we find out where to look up state financial aid opportunities for our state?

Your presentations directed us to the website where we would input stuff with our child. We tried to set up an account, but our school was not on the list, yet our school is the one who told us about the service and the event.

We are legal guardian of our granddaughter. How does that affect her eligibility for financial aid for college?

If the school counselor is overworked and doesn't have time to meet with my student, where do they turn?

I still have questions about locating and obtaining scholarships. I also would love more information on other new career choices.

How do I find the college that is right for my daughter and is something I can afford without relying on a scholarship?

What type of timeline should I be assisting them with when it comes to the scholarship process?

How do you provide your child with the necessary opportunities to successfully gain acceptance into a competitive college? Our high school only provides the bare minimum core classes. They cut Spanish and only offer 1 language (1 teacher) for the entire school. The students who were taking Spanish are forced to take it online (which is quite difficult) or drop out. There are extremely limited electives (music, art, tech) and only if they fit into your schedule. No additional academics are available. My son (who graduated) had to take physics online!

When does my daughter start applying to college? When do we start financial aid materials?

ADDITIONAL TRAINING TOPICS

Participants shared additional topics they would like to learn about. Topics in bold were requested by multiple respondents. Again, understanding and managing the costs of college is uppermost in participants' minds.

Topic Suggestions:
Managing Finances
How to apply for Scholarships/Grants
Skills for College Success
Career Exploration , specifically the arts
How to Find Scholarships
The Application/Admission Process
Mentorship
In-state v. Out-of-state tuition and options
University Life/Living on Campus
School Accommodations
Choosing the Right Major
Parenting College Students
Critical Thinking
Mental Health
International Work Opportunities
College Admissions Timeline
Study Abroad Opportunities
Examining College Costs
Ivy League: Pros and Cons
Recognizing False Websites
Arranging Campus Tours
SAT v. ACT: Pros and Cons
College Application Personal Essay
Sports Scholarships
College Readiness Timeline
The 529 Plan
Job Shadowing
Summer Internships

SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILY CCR TRAINING IMPROVEMENT

The final survey question asked participants to reflect on the training and identity areas for improvement. Participants noted and appreciated the varied ways information was delivered and the content offered. Many requested more trainings and that increased avenues to engage more during the training and after would be helpful. There is also a desire to hear from other parents as well as students that have used the CCR skills they have learned and that have gone through the college admissions process. Increasing awareness through advertising of upcoming training events was suggested. Several excellent suggestions were provided and are listed below. Again, items in bold reflect multiple mentions.

Participant Suggestions for Improvement:
An agenda ahead of time would be good.
Better coordination of information. I did not receive information about sessions 2 & 3.
Hold more webinar trainings.
Can be in different languages.
Creating social forums and groups.
Have more speakers who will share different experiences.
Having students who've used these resources talk personally about their experiences and what else they wished they would've known. Enjoyed hearing from actual student. Adding more clips of current students.
I liked how you used short video clips and images to break up the conversations. That is a more engaging approach.
I received the information about training from my employer because I work for a school district. I would have thought I would have gotten this information from my child's school. So, if there is a way to get this information to the parents of high school children through their schools it could help so many more people.
Allowing us to engage more in the meeting, to pose live questions, discussion time.
I think it would be helpful for the students to either be encouraged to watch the videos with their parents or have a separate set of videos just for them that they watch with their parents. The guided questions are helpful, but I think the students would benefit from a video session also.
I would like to see topics on financial management.
Audio was difficult at times. The two taped sessions' audio was not very satisfactory. Visuals were good. How do we get copies?
I would love to do this training in person! I look forward to getting more of our students certified as CCR advisors.
Include a couple more short videos as you did from the colleges in upstate NY and VT.
Include an interview with a college financial aid or admissions person to find out some important points that applicants need to do when applying and share what have they seen done in error.
It would be helpful to have our accounts set up after the event.
It would be nice to have a training locally at our school.
Listening to parents who have actually applied the CCR training information to their child's college application process. Maybe some testimonies from students or parents who have used this.
Maybe delve a bit deeper into career options in various subjects. You mentioned, for example, partnering with an NFL team to talk about careers other than playing pro football. Maybe a few more examples of specific careers within that example, or other broad fields and then give examples.

Maybe having someone stay on after the presentation to answer questions. Or a zoom just for Q And A. Everyone's experience is different... sometimes the overview is too brief... or not specific for someone's situation.

Maybe offer some smaller group for questions. I think it allows up to process more, after the meeting I look up information that stood out to me and inform myself.

More info on financial aid.

More info on technical institutions.

More info. on the common application and what admissions offices are really looking for.

More information on how to speak to kids who are gifted but have no interest in college.

More recorded webinars about various topics available at your website at any time.

More specific info on local scholarship opportunities.

More time in between sessions to allow people more time to view the sessions and look at the resources.

Offer it earlier in the year or maybe to juniors as well as they sometimes take two years in one.

Offer trainings / workshops during the day as those of us with student athletes are extremely busy after school with games and practices.

Perhaps distribute documents after the sessions with key points etc.

Possibly having students in college talk about things they would've liked to have known in their junior and senior year of HS.

Provide college tips and tricks and such.

I like the live sessions not recorded. Adding more live sessions to the training.

Spend less time on introductions.

Take into consideration that many students don't have parents available to help. How can students get access to opportunities not offered to them in their schools?

What about a Q and A for our children to get them involved?

Would love to dive deeper on how to identify a major/interest area/jobs your teen may enjoy/be well suited for.