

Postsecondary Options

The **BIG** Idea

- Why is education after high school so important, and what are some of my options?

AGENDA

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up (5 minutes)
- II. Career Cards (15 minutes)
- III. How Much Are You Willing to Invest? (15 minutes)
- IV. Wrap Up: Check-up Questions (10 minutes)

MATERIALS

☐ STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:

- Student Handbook page 57, Education After High School Glossary
- Student Handbook pages 58-59, Postsecondary Education Notes
- Student Handbook page 60, Postsecondary Options: Pros and Cons

☐ FACILITATOR PAGES:

- Facilitator Resource 1, DO NOW
- Facilitator Resource 2, Career Cards, Eight cards for each postsecondary option
 - Pages 1–2: Four-Year College (8 cards)
 - Pages 3–4: Apprenticeships (8 cards)
 - Pages 5–6: Community College (8 cards)
 - Pages 7–8: Technical/Trade School (8 cards)

- ☐ Chart paper or overhead projector to record notes during **Activity III**.

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Understand the importance of education after high school.
- Identify more than one postsecondary option and match them with careers.
- Describe how postsecondary options differ in terms of time investment, cost, and career preparation.

OVERVIEW

Students think about the relative number of jobs that require postsecondary schooling, and as a class, discuss and list various postsecondary options. In groups, they are given four careers and asked to match each with a postsecondary option it requires. They learn about the relative cost, time investment, and rewards for different postsecondary options, and on a worksheet, list a pro and a con for two of these options.

PREPARATION

- List the day's **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board.
- Write the day's vocabulary words and definitions on the board.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or copied onto chart paper:
 - **Student Handbook pages 58-59, Postsecondary Education Notes**
 - **Student Handbook page 60, Postsecondary Options: Pros and Cons**
- To color code **Facilitator Resource 2, Career Cards**, print pages 1–2 on blue paper, pages 3–4 on red paper, pages 5–6 on green paper, and pages 7–8 on yellow paper. (NOTE: Careers should be printed on one side of the paper only.)
- Cut out enough cards so that each group of four in the class receives a set of four different-colored cards—one for each postsecondary option.

VOCABULARY

Postsecondary Education: Schooling after high school that includes programs at technical and trade schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges.

Community College: A postsecondary school that offers career training, or preparation for a four-year college.

Technical/Trade School: A postsecondary school that offers instruction and training in a skill or

trade. Examples: plumbing or cosmetology.

Apprenticeship: A position in which a recent graduate receives on-the-job training and classroom instruction, sometimes with pay.

Financial Aid: Any type of assistance used to pay college costs.

Graduate School: Additional education after a four-year college.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

DO NOW:

(You may choose to present the **Warm Up** activity as a written Do Now. *Present the questions on the board or overhead, and have students write only their answers on index cards. You could also choose to give the students a handout by copying **Facilitator Resource 1, DO NOW.**)*

Questions:

1. How many jobs require more training/education after high school? Circle the choice you think is correct and then explain why you chose that answer.
 - * 1 out of 5
 - * 2 out of 5
 - * 3 out of 5
 - * 4 out of 5
 - * 5 out of 5
2. Attending a four-year college is one way to continue your education after you graduate from high school. List any other types of education or training available after high school.
3. In a few sentences, explain what you plan to do after you graduate from high school.

[Call on students to read their answers; then read the last two paragraphs of the **Warm Up.**]

In **Activity II, Career Cards**, you may choose to group students so that all within a group have the same color card. Have students work together to figure out what type of postsecondary education their careers require. One student from each group can then present their conclusion to the class.

Instead of writing individual answers in **Activity III, How Much Are You Willing to Invest?**, you may choose to have the students vote as a class to decide which postsecondary education requires the most/least time and money. You should then record their answers on the overhead or board.

If you think your students will struggle to complete **Activity II, Career Cards** before learning about each type of postsecondary education, you can switch the order of **Activity II** and **Activity III**.

In **Activity IV, Check Up Questions**, if you think individual students will struggle, have them complete **Student Handbook page 60, Postsecondary Options: Pros and Cons** in pairs. You can also make a class list of pros and cons on an overhead projector, board, or chart paper. Students can then write down their responses on their own handbook pages.

ACTIVITY STEPS

I. Warm Up (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Here's a trivia question for you. How many jobs require more training after high school? I'll give you four choices. Raise your hand when you hear the one that's correct.

Does 1 out of 5 jobs require training beyond high school?

2 out of 5?

3 out of 5?

4 out of 5?

If you said four out of five, you're right. This means that if you want to have your best shot at a good job, twelfth grade will not be the end of your schooling. Raise your hand if you have a good idea of where you'll be going to school after high school. [Students respond.]

If you don't have a clue, you're not alone. Most students don't finalize their plans until their junior or senior year. But knowing what your choices are, and how to get more information about them, will make planning easier and a lot more fun.

That's what we're going to work on for the next few weeks.

II. Career Cards (15 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Finishing high school is a big milestone. But once you're through, there are a lot of ways to continue your education to make sure that you'll have a rewarding career that pays well.

Four-year college is one way to do it [Write **Four-Year College** on the blackboard.] Usually, when people say they want to go to college, a four-year college is what they have in mind. But there are other options, too. Can anyone name one?

[Write student answers on the board and prompt students for any of the following that they miss:

- Community college
- Technical/trade programs of less than two years
- Apprenticeships for skilled trades]

[Direct students' attention to **Student Handbook page 57, Education After High School Glossary**. This glossary should be referenced throughout the unit whenever vocabulary is reviewed or introduced. Review these three types of postsecondary education. See **Vocabulary**.]

2. [Once this list is on the board, distribute a set of four different-colored career cards to each team of four students (See **Preparation and Implementation Options**). Explain that each card requires a different kind of post-high school training and that using the list on the board as their guide, teams have to figure out what kind of training is required for each job. Each student in the group should be responsible for one career card. Explain that this card does not represent their future career. They are just in charge of presenting this career to their group and the class.]

[Explain to students that although there may be more than one kind of training for some of the careers listed, the answer will represent a common option.]

[After about five minutes, ask each student with a red card to read the career listed. Then explain that all these careers share similar training. Have the students with the red cards vote on which of the four options they think is correct, then give them the answer. (Note that stars on the blue cards mean more schooling is required after college.) Follow this procedure for the three remaining colors. See **KEY** below.]

KEY

BLUE	Four-Year College
RED	Apprenticeships for Skilled Trades
GREEN	Community College
YELLOW	Technical/Trade Programs of less than two years

III. How Much Are You Willing to Invest? (15 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Let's talk about the kind of investment you're going to have to make for each of the four options. The costs are all different and so is the amount of time they'll take to finish.

[Pass out one index card to each student. On the board, recreate the information below. Instruct students to write this information on their index card.]

Which Postsecondary Option:

1. Costs most?
2. Costs least?
3. Takes the most time?
4. Takes the least time?

On your index card you are going to write down the postsecondary option that you think costs the most money and the one you think costs the least. Then you will write down the option you think takes the most time to finish and the option you think takes the least time. You can check your answers afterward while I'm talking.

[Give students two minutes to write down their answers on their index card.]

2. [Display **Student Handbook pages 58-59, Postsecondary Education Notes** on the overhead projector as you instruct students to turn to these pages in their handbook. Explain that all of the answers will be covered during the following mini-lecture. Instruct the students to fill in the blanks as you are speaking. Ask students to help you fill in the blanks after you discuss each section. Record the answers on the overhead projector. Make sure to clarify any misconceptions the students may have.]
3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Let's start with **apprenticeships**. There are a lot of these in the skilled trades like plumbing, carpentry, construction, and electrical work, but there are also apprenticeships in other professions like nursing, hotel management, and homeland security.

You might be surprised to find out that apprenticeships can take the most time of any postsecondary option. Some take as little as one year, but some can take three to five years to finish.

Apprenticeships are also the least expensive way to go. Actually, employers sometimes even pay YOU while you get on-the-job training and academic instruction to learn the skills you need.

Completing an apprenticeship is also likely to land you a good job in your chosen field. Many times you can even get a job where you've been an apprentice.

4. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** At **technical and trade schools**, you can get a license or certificate in different kinds of skilled careers. These include jobs like auto mechanic, computer technician, truck driver, medical assistant, and interior decorator.

Technical and trade programs take the least time to finish of all the post-high school options. Some can even be completed in as little as five months.

The cost of tech and trade schools can really vary. Some can cost as little as a few hundred dollars, but a few can cost up to \$10,000. Most are somewhere in between. The good news is that tech and trade schools often offer training in growing professions, so there are likely to be a lot of jobs available when you're through.

5. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** A degree from a **community college** is also likely to get you into the job market right away. The kind of in-demand jobs these schools prepare you for include bookkeeper, fashion designer, computer programmer, and paramedic.

Community college takes two years to complete, and it'll cost you about \$2,000 per year. Community colleges usually offer two different options. You can stop after a two-year degree or use a community college as a stepping-stone on the way to a 4-year degree.

6. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** If you thought **four-year college** was the most expensive option, you were right. At the moment, the price tag for a four-year college runs between about \$4,000 to more than \$40,000 each year. State schools like [**a state college or university in your area**] have the lowest listed cost and private colleges and universities like [**a private college or university in your area**] have the highest listed cost. However, the lowest tuition doesn't mean the cheapest to attend. Many private schools have money to give to hardworking students who can't afford school otherwise.

Just remember not to get too scared off by these higher costs; there's often financial aid available for students who need it. Financial aid is any type of assistance that's used to pay college costs. There is an affordable option for everyone, and we'll learn about this later in the unit.

Except for some five-year apprenticeships, four-year college generally takes the longest of all the options, which is four years of course.

So with all these other options, why would someone spend all that time and money on four years of college? [Allow students to respond.] People who make the most money generally have four-year degrees. And going to four-year college also gives you the option to go to graduate school where you can become a doctor, lawyer, or other professional. These are the careers that usually pay the most. Four-year college also gives you broader knowledge than you get from the other kinds of training. This general knowledge can make it easier to switch careers.

[Have students identify which options require the least/most amount of time and money. Answer any questions the students may still have about each type of postsecondary option.]

IV. Wrap Up: Check-up Questions (10 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now that you know a little more about four different schooling options, take a look at **Student Handbook page 60, Postsecondary Choices: Pros and Cons.**

For this handbook page you will need to write one pro (positive outcome) and one con (negative outcome) for each of three options listed. Before you start working on your own, let's review the examples together.

[Have a volunteer read the pro and con for apprenticeships. Make sure students understand the differences between a pro and a con. Then see if any students can come up with another pro or con for apprenticeships. Once you feel students can complete this task on their own, give them a few minutes to complete the chart. Then ask for a few volunteers to share their answers.]

DO NOW

Education After High School 1: Postsecondary Options

Directions: You will have three minutes to read the questions and write your answers.

1. How many jobs require more training/education after high school? Circle the choice you think is correct and then explain why you chose that answer.

- * 1 out of 5
- * 2 out of 5
- * 3 out of 5
- * 4 out of 5
- * 5 out of 5

2. Attending a four-year college is one way to continue your education after you graduate from high school. List any other types of education or training available after high school.

3. In a few sentences, explain what you plan to do after you graduate from high school.

CAREER CARDS (Four-Year College; print on blue paper)

Doctor



Lawyer



**Social
Worker**

**Marine
Biologist**

CAREER CARDS (Four-Year College; print on blue paper)

Accountant

Architect

**Computer
Programmer**

Teacher

CAREER CARDS (Apprenticeships; print on red paper)

Electrician

Welder

Caterer

Bricklayer

CAREER CARDS (Apprenticeships; print on red paper)

Roofer

Carpenter

Machinist

Plumber

CAREER CARDS (Community College; print on green paper)

**Police
Officer**

Chef

**Massage
Therapist**

**Medical Lab
Technician**

CAREER CARDS (Community College; print on green paper)

Nurse

**Childcare
Provider**

**Web
Designer**

**Interior
Designer**

CAREER CARDS (Technical/Trade Schools; print on yellow paper)

Hair Stylist

**Auto
Mechanic**

**Computer
Technician**

**Hotel
Clerk**

CAREER CARDS (Technical/Trade Schools; print on yellow paper)

**Surgical
Assistant**

Truck Driver

**Administrative
Assistant**

**Pharmacy
Assistant**

Education After High School Glossary

Accreditation: official approval of a program after a school has met specific requirements.

Admissions: the department at a college or university that oversees the application and acceptance process.

Apprenticeship: a position in which a recent graduate receives on-the-job training and classroom instruction, sometimes with pay.

Campus Life/Residence: the department at a college or university that oversees campus housing, dining, and on-campus clubs and activities.

Community College: a postsecondary school that offers career training, or preparation for a four-year college. (Also called a two-year college.)

Enrollment: the number of students who are currently attending a particular college or university.

Financial Aid: scholarships, grants, loans, and other assistance programs that help pay for tuition and other postsecondary school expenses.

Graduate School: additional education after a four-year college.

Licensed: legal permission to operate.

Postsecondary Education: schooling after high school that includes programs at technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges.

Private College or University: school that receives only a small amount of ongoing government support, tuition is usually higher, but so is the aid that is offered.

Prospective Students: potential or future students at a college or university.

Public College or University: school partially funded by a state or local government, often called a state school or city college/university.

Specialized College: a public or private school that prepares you for a career in a specific field. Examples include art, music, teaching, engineering, business, health science, and religion.

Technical/Trade School: a postsecondary school that offers instruction and training in a skill or trade. Examples: plumbing or cosmetology.

Tuition: fees paid for instruction, especially for postsecondary education.

Undergraduate: a student in a university or college who has not received their Bachelor's degree.

Postsecondary Education Notes

Apprenticeships

There are a lot of apprenticeships in skilled trades like plumbing or carpentry. But there are also apprenticeships in other professions like _____ (one example).

Some apprenticeships take as little as _____ year, but some can take _____ to _____ years to finish.

Apprenticeships are the _____ expensive way to go.

Technical and Trade Schools

You can get a _____ or certificate in different kinds of skilled careers like _____ (one example).

Technical and trade programs of less than two years take the _____ time to finish of all the postsecondary options.

Some can even be completed in as little as _____ months.

The cost of these schools can _____.

Community College

Community college prepares you for jobs like _____ (one example).

Community college takes _____ years to complete.

It will cost you about _____ per year.

Four-Year College

Four-year college is the most _____ option. It costs between \$4,000 a year and _____ a year.

Public schools are cheaper than _____ schools.

Four-year college generally takes the _____ time of all of the options.

Going to a four-year college gives you the option to go to _____ school, where you can become a doctor, lawyer, or other professional.

Postsecondary Options Pros & Cons

Directions: List one Pro and one Con for each type of postsecondary option listed below.

OPTION	PRO	CON
Apprenticeships in the Skilled Trades	<i>You can get paid to learn.</i>	<i>You are trained to do a very specific job so you will need more schooling if you want to switch careers.</i>
Trade/Technical School (less than 2 years)		
Community College		
Four-Year College		