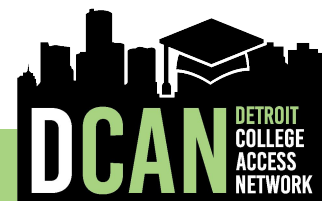


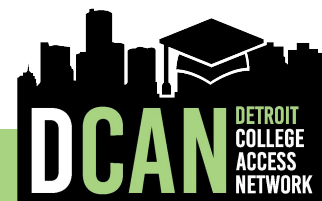
Detroit STRIVES

Professional Development

March 4, 2021



College Access Phase II: Class of 2021 and Underclassmen



Agenda

- I. Temperature Check
- II. Where are we now?
- III. Finalizing Applications
- IV. Getting Students on Track
- V. Preparing for PSAT/SAT
- VI. Questions

Temperature Check

Some of us are back in session...

How are things going, what does the roll-out plan look like for students?

What are the most pressing topics/resources that students need support on at this time?

Where are we now?

This time of year is typically the period in which you are supporting students with finalizing the steps needed to take in the pathways decisions they have made.

This year however looks a bit different due to the pandemic. We are at a divide!

Student Divide

This divide falls into 3-4 buckets:

- Students that are on target
- Students that were present but disconnected from next steps
- Students not present but still actively taking steps forward
- Students not present and not engaged

On Target Students

DROP IN THE CHAT!!!

How are you currently supporting these students?

What are your top priorities for these students?

On Target Students

Engagement Focus

These students have been working hard through this pandemic. You don't want them to experience burnout!

Be sure to keep them engaged in ways that invigorates them and maintains their excitement/passion for a better future

Top Priorities

You want them to continue to push forward with completing necessary steps for their post grad aspirations but be sure to celebrate every stride that they are making.

Due to them doing what they were supposed to do during this time, their accomplishments are not as elevated as the could be

Present but not engaged

DROP IN THE CHAT!!!

How are you currently supporting these students?

What are your top priorities for these students?

Present but not engaged

Engagement Focus

This is a challenging crowd b/c they've identified that they need to show up (for whatever reason) but not realized how invaluable it is to still actively work towards their futures.

There are likely external mitigating factors of why they are present in which they are doing just enough to get by

Top Priorities

Identify the reasons why they are present (e.g. parent making them, need to graduate, etc).

Identify what is important to them in life and help them shape steps to move forward on that pathway, whatever it is. When you gain their trust that you care, they are more willing to take steps needed

Not present but completing steps

DROP IN THE CHAT!!!

How are you currently supporting these students?

What are your top priorities for these students?

Not present but completing steps

Engagement Focus

This group is misunderstood. Their lack of presence/attendance makes people believe that they don't care but if you are appropriately tracking for every student, there are students not present but still completing steps.

They may have other mitigating circumstances affecting attendance

Top Priorities

Identify the reasons why they are not present (e.g. jobs, home life, etc).

Use their friends that are present to connect with them. Create external spaces to connect with them to continue to complete steps towards their futures. If you can support w/ eliminating barriers, do so.

Off the Grid!

DROP IN THE CHAT!!!

How are you currently attempting to find/connect with these students?

What are your top priorities for these students?

Off the Grid!

Engagement Focus

The reality is we can continue to push to locate and support these students but you may not be successful to engage them. This group has several groups within it.

- Students that found an escape from school
- Students dealing w/ extreme trauma
- Students w/o resources

Top Priorities

Create systems norms to try to reach out to these students but do not let it consume all of your time!

Create a consistent space that you make available for these students to get the support that they will need whenever they decide/can resurface. Make it known that help will be there!

Getting Students on Track

The Reemergence

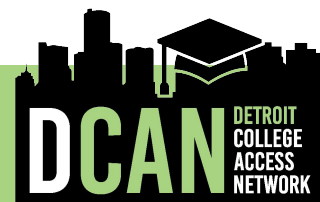
As schools are implementing their roll-out plans to get students safely back in the classroom, professionals are just as excited to engage those students that have been disconnected and not fully taking the steps needed to successfully transition

Getting Students on Track

The Reemergence

**DO NOT LET YOUR EXCITEMENT OVERWHELM
STUDENTS TO NOT WANTING TO DO
ANYTHING!**

This time has been a shock for students, the last thing they need is a piled up list of to-dos the moment they make contact



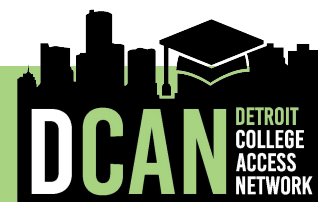
Getting Students on Track

The Reemergence

Relationship building will be key. Talk to students about how they are feeling, what they want/need, and what will help the transition back be the most exciting.

Invest in them caring about school, it's value, and their place in it!

The rest will follow!!!



Engaging Underclassmen

Engaging Unclassmen

We tend to think that seniors and underclassmen have different priorities and focuses.

This however is not the case!

Younger students should more/less be working on and towards the same things and having the same conversations. We've just traditionally reserved this for seniors which contributes to the lack of readiness!

Engaging Unclassmen

Younger students fall into the same categories listed for the prospective seniors. The approach to supporting these students should be the same and present the same urgency as if the student is graduating this year.

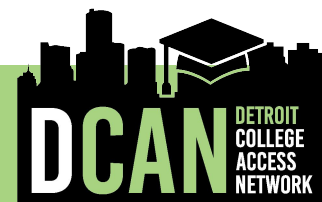
Engage them on what they want out of life, build relationships and foundations of trust, actively invest in what they aspire not just what you want, and create spaces for them to participate in what invigorates them

Preparing for the PSAT/SAT

Some students understand the value and importance of the test and will approach it as such.

Many students however hear it is important but may not understand the gravity of the value and how it is not an end all be all.

Support/educate students on how the performance and continuous improvement contributes to the futures they are trying to reach. Make sure they understand it does not start and end on test day!

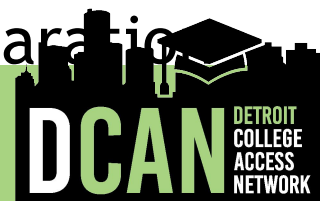


Test Prep Support

DCAN: SAT Test Prep class for juniors is underway and the potential of a new discounted class will be emerging. Keep an eye out for this opportunity

Khan Academy: Students know what it means and sometimes place a negative connotation on it as “school work” because they use it in class. Show them the value in it and how they can take advantage of it.

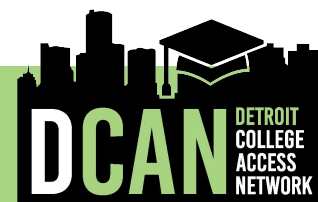
GetSchooled: Learning platform that support students in understanding processes, steps, as well as preparation



Questions??



Break



Financial Aid

Phase II: Next Steps/Verification

March 4, 2021

Agenda

- I. FAFSA Progress
- II. Application Confirmation
- III. Student Portals
- IV. Verification
- V. Financial Aid Office Communication
- VI. Questions

FAFSA Progress

- Detroit Senior Count: 5426
 - Students in MISSG: 3553
- Completed Apps MISSG 3/1: 1261
- Completed Apps Feds 2/19: 1786

Mid November: Approx 1000 w/ 207 apps completed

98 Applications completed in the last week

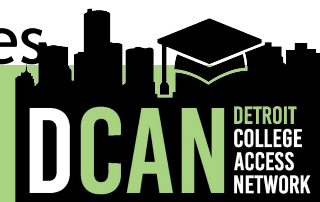
Application Confirmation

1st level of student self-advocacy
Admissions and Financial Aid

Have your students call the admissions and financial aid office and confirm that what is needed has been received and/or if anything addtl needs to be submitted!

Even if they “know”

This gives them the practice to be comfortable to make calls to important offices to make inquiries



Student Portals

Once a student has applied to a school, all conversations that take place should lead with them using their student portals.

The further the student gets into the admissions process for a college or university the less communication by mail, phone, etc will take place for students so students will need to get comfortable with navigating and troubleshooting their portal to find information their need.

Student Portals

Be sure that every school a student has applied to they activate their prospective and/or current (after admitted) student portal.

Have an event and/or allocate time for students to log in and explore both admissions and financial aid.

Students should be able to see here as well if their FAFSA application is received, document request and if they've been received. We still want them to make that confirmation call though ;)

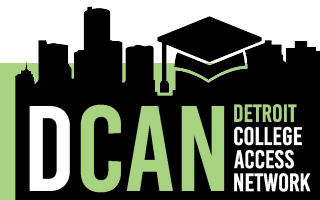
Verification

Our favorite part of the financial aid process!
(feel the sarcasm)

Verification is where our students will need the most support to be sure they can access the financial resources that are available to them.

Not because what's being requested is complex but because students don't realize this step is just as important as the application and though tedious...

REQUIRED!



Verification

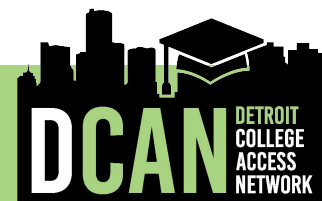
If you students have been doing the necessary practice of navigating portals and calling for outstanding requirements, they should have access to the required verification items.

These students will need printers as unfortunately many financial aid office has not converted to e-signature documents. Though documents are simple, students typically need a lot of hand holding and confirmation that they are answering questions correctly

Verification

Do not complete verification steps for students as they will need to be familiar with the requirements and how to complete because 9/10, the same verification items will need to be completed annually.

Support them in groups! You may have a verification support time that are based on the schools students have applied and been admitted to. This will support in the lack of time you may have as well as streamline the questions as they will be more or less aligned because all the documents are the same.



Verification

An award letter in most cases does not mean verification is completed so do not let students get caught in the fact that they received an award letter as the determining factor that what they needed to do is completed.

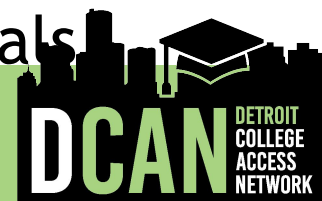
Award letters just like FAFSA application confirmations are computer generated and most cases an immediate process that recognizes that an application has been received... not processed!

Financial Aid Communication

This time of the year is the ideal time to contact financial aid about inquiries... especially special circumstances.

May-July are going to be the worst times and this is typically when everyone attempts to call even for basic info.

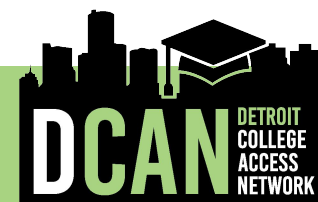
Use this time to ask as many questions that you can before the 2 hour call-wait periods start. Confirm submission, final awards, next steps, appeals



Financial Aid Communication

Identify the key contacts and those that students are comfortable working with as they are more likely to be the ones that advocate for students the most when it comes time to navigate challenging situations.

Keep a paper trail! Even if a phone call is made, follow-up with an email restating what was discussed on the call. All submitted documents are housed in the students records and in some cases can make and break a students situation if they keep a log of what has transpired and with whom.



Financial Aid Communication

Dont rest until there is a final award!

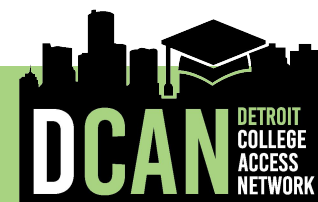
Not the estimated award.

The final award is the award determination after all verification and appeals. It is not communicated that an award is a final award. So this is why the early calls were important. Students will need to call to confirm that the award they have access to at that time is based on the review of verification documents and any pending appeal.

Financial Aid Communication

Once a student has a final award, this is the ideal space to make a financial decision.

If a student is anticipating a scholarship and tuition is covered by their financial aid, it will be imperative for them to establish a relationship with the donor to request to use scholarship for other educational expenses beyond tuition and that the donor document this use to be provided to the institution. Otherwise they will reduce the tuition only aid to accommodate the scholarship



Questions??