



Hello counselors!

We are writing today to share an important resource for your work with high school students. Last spring, we sent a document on how to help the class of 2020 finalize their postsecondary plans. [This new and improved document](#) will help you provide support for the class of 2021 earlier rather than later. This new plan includes some of the same steps as before, but with an important first step of developing a team to support the counselor's work in this process.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that schools develop a PostSecondary Response team that includes both internal and external partners who will coordinate support for the class of 2021. This team may look similar to your district Career Guidance Team (ICAP) and could be an additional function of that team.

PostSecondary enrollment trends have diminished significantly for all students, and show especially steep drops among Black students and rural White students. When low-income students stop attending school, they rarely return, diminishing their job and wage prospects for the rest of their lives. Only 13 percent of college dropouts ever return, a National Student Clearinghouse [report](#) last year found, and even fewer graduate. Without the usual face-to-face reminders from teachers and counselors to fill out applications for college and financial aid and stay engaged in classes, students are falling through the cracks.

This document highlights the 5 steps you can take to support the successful postsecondary transition for the class of 2021. We have also included [a video](#) providing further direction on the first step of developing your Postsecondary Response team. We will provide additional resources for the other four steps over the next few weeks.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like further support as you begin to implement your plan for supporting the graduating class of 2021. Questions can be directed to questions@aeaprep.org.