

TURNING DREAMS INTO DEGREES



Ed Course 1: Supporting Foster Youth Through Early College Awareness and Preparation

Lessons Learned Activity

The below student vignette highlights common challenges that foster youth experience as they try to prepare for college. Read through the short description and then work with your group to strategize ways to respond to this particular student.

Student Vignette #1

Brandon is 14 years old and about to start the 9th grade. He will be starting at a new school and won't know any of the other students. In middle school, he had to change schools three times and got behind in his classes. He particularly struggled in math and would sometimes ditch this class to avoid feeling embarrassed. When you ask Brandon about his math class he says, "I hate that class, I'm no good at math."

When you ask Brandon about his strengths and interests, he says that he likes to read young adult graphic novels and play basketball. Brandon doesn't know anyone in his family that has gone to college. When you approach him about preparing for his new school, he responds by agreeing to what you say; then he ignores your suggestions. When you ask him what he wants to be when he grows up, he just shrugs his shoulders and says, "I dunno."

Discussion Questions

- What steps should Brandon take to prepare for college in the 9th grade?
- What would you do to help create a college-going culture at home and increase his knowledge about college?
- What strategies could you implement to engage Brandon in the college and career exploration process?
- What resources or supports would you recommend for Brandon?