Building a Pathway: Postsecondary Success Asset Mapping (PSAM)

Mapping College and Career Readiness Assets
for All Students

What is
Postsecondary Success Asset Mapping (PSAM)?

Postsecondary Success Asset Mapping (PSAM) is a researched-based survey and set of tools that helps schools guide underserved students toward successful college and career pathways. Using PSAM, schools:

- collect data on five key asset areas of college and career readiness;

- assess strengths and challenges;

- identify and align resources for the greatest impact;

- prioritize the greatest needs around college and career readiness; and

- implement action steps to better prepare their students for college and career.

Why do PSAM in our school?

1. Develop a shared, research-based understanding of what it means to be college and career ready
2. Map and understand how well the school is supporting students in developing the knowledge and skills to help them become college and career ready
3. Gain a greater understanding of the kinds and quality of data the school uses to track how well it is doing in supporting students to be college and career ready
4. Come to consensus about the school's strengths and opportunities for improvement
5. Identify ways to better leverage already existing resources
6. Develop an action plan, based on agreed upon priorities, for next steps in improving students' college and career readiness

What is the research behind PSAM?

- Education Policy Improvement Center
- FHI 360
  – Postsecondary Success Collaborative and the National Institute for Work and Learning
- College and Career Readiness and Success Center at American Institutes for Research
- Educators for Social Responsibility
- Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University
- University of Chicago Consortium on School Research

How do we do PSAM?

1. Administer Assets 1-4 of the online PSAM survey to all school staff and critical stakeholders
2. Administer asset 5 to the team charged with leading the PSAM initiative
3. Receive data reports; analyze and discuss data
4. Identify priorities for action
5. Develop an action plan for expanding the pathways to college and career readiness
6. Review progress, refine as needed

Coordinating PSAM

A member of the PSAM team will work with the principal to do the following:

- Bring the PSAM team together
- Develop a process and timeline
- Keep everyone informed and on schedule
- Maintain focus on and communicate college and career goals to staff and other stakeholders
- Provide follow up as needed (e.g., track staff participation levels in the PSAM survey; encourage staff to participate)
- On-site "go-to" person for content, process, and technical questions
- Communicate with technical assistance partner (e.g. local organization, FHI 360)
- Coordinate with FHI3 60 to create a data report for your school
- Keep clear records of data and documentation
- Facilitate meetings

The role of the PSAM team

The PSAM team is a representative group of school staff and partners who work together to implement PSAM. Their role and responsibilities are as follows:

- Complete survey questions for Assets 1-5.
- Be leaders in the school for this work.
- Participate in meetings throughout the year to analyze and discuss PSAM data and develop priorities.
- Come to a shared understanding of the kinds and quality of data the school uses to track college and career readiness in our school.
- Agree on and make decisions about what the school does well and where it needs to focus and/or leverage its resources.
- Develop and implement an action plan, based on agreed upon priorities for improving college and career readiness in the school.
- Share and implement action plans with the faculty, staff, and other stakeholders.
- Measure results and communicate success.

What data does the PSAM survey collect?

The anonymous online survey collects data about the level of implementation in five areas of college and career readiness:

1. Transition knowledge and skills
2. Content knowledge
3. Learning and employability skills
4. Critical thinking and problem solving skills
5. School Systems

How do we collect the data?

- Provide *all* faculty and staff with a link to Assets 1-4 of the online survey. (obtained from FHI 360)

- Only the PSAM team will complete an additional questions for Asset #5: School Systems.

How do we access our PSAM data?

- Each school will receive an editable PowerPoint format with approximately 1 table per survey question.

- In addition, your raw data will be sent in an Excel spreadsheet, which has the functionality to present your data in graphs, charts, and tables. Creating excel data reports requires good Excel skills. If no such person is currently available in or to your school, we recommend working with a local partner, such as a local education fund (LEF), college or university, graduate student, or local business to get help using Excel to export, filter, and display the data in a format that will be user friendly for your school and partners.

- Once the data is in the Excel format, schools and their data partners can filter and sort the data to create a customized data report.

PSAM Toolkit

An online PSAM Toolkit contains everything needed for PSAM:

- PSAM survey

- Background information and research

- Resources, sample agendas, directions, and other helpful tips on implementing PSAM

PSAM: Want to see it in action?

This brief video provides an example of how The Education Fund of Miami-Dade worked with a public high school to implement PSAM and engage the district.

http://vimeo.com/68349080

Contact information

For more information about PSAM, contact:

- Maud Abeel (mabeel@fhi360.org) or
- Frances Santiago (fsantiago@fhi360.org)

www.postsecondarysuccess.org

@AccessHigherEd