## SCHOOL CAREER + CONVERSATIONS

## Premises:

1. All students have the opportunity to explore interests, abilities, values and goals with a certified school counselor.

2. All students have freedom of postsecondary training and career choice.

- 3. Career development engages students, parents and community partners.
- 4. Career development is a lifelong process beginning at pre-K.
- 5. Students have the right to change their career aspirations and goals at any time.
- 6. Career conversations are primarily strength-based.

Instructions: Determine the student's needs based on the corresponding ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors. Some students may need to address each Mindset & Behavior standard throughout the years, while others may only need to focus on a few. Adapt these questions to meet individual students' needs.

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors   | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
|--|---|---|--|
| MINDSETS   |   |   |  |
| MINDSETS<br>Belief in<br>development<br>of whole self,<br>including a<br>healthy balance<br>of mental,<br>social/emotional<br>and physical<br>well-being<br>(M 1.) | <ol> <li>As you look over the last<br/>few months, what has your<br/>child accomplished that has<br/>been a real highlight?</li> <li>What challenges or<br/>struggles have you observed<br/>your child facing?</li> <li>Could you give me an<br/>example of a time when<br/>your child was faced with a<br/>challenge and he/she was<br/>able to successfully resolve<br/>the issue on his/her own?</li> <li>How do you know when<br/>you need to step in, be<br/>supportive or let children<br/>struggle and find solutions<br/>on their own?</li> <li>As you think about post-<br/>high-school life for your<br/>child, what skills might he/<br/>she still need to develop<br/>to be successful? What<br/>community programs/<br/>activities could help develop<br/>these skills?</li> <li>Describe a time when you<br/>felt proud of your family.<br/>What are some of the<br/>values you have worked to<br/>pass along to your children?<br/>How have you seen your</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>How would you<br/>characterize the quality of<br/>life (physical and mental<br/>health) of our community?</li> <li>If our students were at<br/>their best, how would our<br/>community be different<br/>(Physically, socially and<br/>emotionally)?</li> <li>What kinds of programs/<br/>services/resources would<br/>you like to provide in<br/>partnership with our<br/>school/district to help our<br/>students be their best?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you<br/>felt proud of something you<br/>accomplished in the last few<br/>months.</li> <li>What else would you like to<br/>accomplish this year?</li> <li>What has gotten in your way<br/>of these accomplishments in the<br/>past?</li> <li>How do nutrition and<br/>sleep play a role in your<br/>accomplishments?</li> <li>What's it feel like when you are<br/>faced with a new task in class?</li> <li>What do you tell yourself when<br/>an assignment or activity is hard?</li> <li>Do your thoughts help or hurt<br/>your success? How?</li> <li>Is there anything you need to<br/>change about what you say to<br/>yourself? What?</li> <li>Who are your strongest<br/>supporters?</li> <li>What activities or places make<br/>you feel safe and valued? Why?</li> <li>In what community activities<br/>do you currently participate? Are<br/>there others in which you might<br/>enjoy being involved?</li> <li>How could your involvement</li> </ol> |
|  | child practice/develop those values over time?  |   | change how you think about your life after high school?  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors                                    | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Self-confidence<br>in ability to<br>succeed (M 2.)              | <ol> <li>Tell me about your child's<br/>level of confidence when<br/>faced with a new task.</li> <li>Describe your child's<br/>approach to working<br/>through a challenging<br/>assignment or problem.</li> <li>How motivated is<br/>your child to complete<br/>schoolwork without being<br/>assisted?</li> </ol>  |  | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you<br/>felt proud of something you<br/>accomplished in the last few<br/>months.</li> <li>Tell me about a time you<br/>completed a math assignment<br/>that made you proud. English?<br/>Writing?</li> <li>What else would you like to<br/>accomplish this year?</li> </ol>  |
| Sense of<br>belonging in<br>the school<br>environment<br>(M 3.) | <ol> <li>Is there something your<br/>child looks forward to?<br/>Please describe.</li> <li>How would you rate your<br/>child's school experience<br/>on a scale of 1-10? Why did<br/>you give it that number?</li> <li>If your child had the<br/>perfect day at school, what<br/>would it look like?</li> <li>What do you think needs<br/>to happen to get closer to<br/>the ideal school day?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>How would you describe<br/>the school's environment?</li> <li>In what ways would<br/>you suggest the school's<br/>environment could be<br/>improved?</li> <li>How could we partner<br/>with you to improve our<br/>school's environment?</li> </ol> | <ul> <li>School counselors: You may want to look at the questions in this instrument to guide conversations: Psychological Sense of School Membership</li> <li>Scale (PSSM; Goodenow &amp; Grady, 1993). Can be found at www. communityschools.org/assets/1/<br/>AssetManager/Survey7.pdf</li> <li>1. Tell me about the activities you are involved in during the school day and after school.</li> <li>2. What is your favorite part of the school day?</li> <li>3. If you had to rate your school on a scale of 1-10 (1=terrible, 10=amazing), what would you rate it? Why?</li> <li>4. What would it take for our school to be amazing?</li> <li>5. Can you think of anything you can do to get your experience a little closer to amazing? Please describe.</li> <li>6. If you were going to try something new to be involved in this year, what would it be?</li> </ul> |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
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| Understanding<br>that post-<br>secondary<br>education and<br>lifelong learning<br>are necessary for<br>long-term career<br>success (M 4.) | <ol> <li>Have you had the<br/>opportunity to discuss what<br/>types of things your child<br/>might do after high school?</li> <li>Have you had the<br/>opportunity to discuss the<br/>types of problems your<br/>child would like to solve in<br/>the future?</li> <li>What programs have<br/>you already explored<br/>related to your child's<br/>career choice (e.g., two-<br/>year college, four-year<br/>college, certificates, trades,<br/>internships)?</li> </ol> | Community partners<br>might be helpful as guest<br>speakers in classes, at job<br>fairs or on panels.<br>1. What type of training/<br>education did you receive<br>for your career?<br>2. How do you stay<br>knowledgeable in your<br>field?<br>3. Would you be willing to<br>demonstrate something<br>you learned from your<br>training/education that you<br>use frequently?                           | <ol> <li>Imagine your life five years<br/>after you graduate from high<br/>school. What challenges do you<br/>want to solve? How does this<br/>relate to a career?</li> <li>As you consider your future,<br/>what types of options after high<br/>school have you already explored<br/>(e.g., two-year college, four-<br/>year college, certificates, trades,<br/>internships)?</li> <li>What concerns or questions<br/>came up for you as you explored?</li> <li>To achieve your career goals,<br/>how long are you willing to go to<br/>college or other type of training?</li> <li>What does success mean to you<br/>when it comes to a career?</li> <li>What do you want your<br/>lifestyle to be like after high<br/>school?</li> <li>Do your lifestyle expectations<br/>match your career and education<br/>goals? If not, what adjustments<br/>are you willing to make?</li> </ol> |
| Belief in using<br>abilities to<br>their fullest to<br>achieve high-<br>quality results<br>and outcomes<br>(M 5.)                         | <ol> <li>Consider the test results/<br/>grades your child earned<br/>this year. Do you think<br/>these tests/grades match<br/>your child's actual abilities?</li> <li>Describe why there<br/>might be differences.</li> <li>What might be a better<br/>measure of your child's<br/>abilities?</li> <li>How might we better<br/>motivate your child to<br/>achieve his/her best-quality<br/>work?</li> </ol>  | Teachers:<br>1. In what ways do you<br>convey results to students<br>in the classroom?<br>2. How do you personally<br>celebrate progress?<br>3. How do you celebrate<br>progress with your<br>students?<br>4. Would you like more<br>information on how to<br>interpret assessment<br>results?<br>5. How do you think we<br>might use our assessment<br>results to more positively<br>motivate students? | <ol> <li>Describe a time you felt<br/>successful.</li> <li>Describe your strengths.</li> <li>What would other people say<br/>are your strengths?</li> <li>When thinking of your future,<br/>are there any skills you would like<br/>to further develop?</li> <li>What can you do to make this<br/>happen?</li> </ol>  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors                               | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
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| Positive attitude<br>toward work<br>and learning<br>(M 6.) | <ol> <li>How would you describe<br/>your child's attitude toward<br/>learning? Work?</li> <li>Are there times when<br/>your child is more positive<br/>about school than others?<br/>What is happening during<br/>those times?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Finding a career that is<br/>the right fit contributes<br/>to overall satisfaction. Do<br/>you know people in our<br/>community who have a<br/>positive attitude toward<br/>work?</li> <li>How might we create<br/>a partnership with these<br/>people?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Describe a project you<br/>successfully completed recently.</li> <li>How did you feel?</li> <li>Did anyone notice/comment on<br/>your success? What did they say?</li> <li>What did you do to successfully<br/>complete the project? Be as<br/>specific as possible.</li> <li>What strategies can you use to<br/>help you successfully complete<br/>other projects?</li> <li>How do these strategies relate<br/>to your future?</li> <li>Do you know of people in<br/>our community that enjoy their<br/>work? Describe.</li> <li>How would you like to think<br/>and feel about your work?</li> </ol> |

| ASCA Mindsets  |   |  |  |
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| & Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
| BEHAVIOR: LE   | ARNING STRATEGIES   |  |  |
| Demonstrate<br>critical-thinking<br>skills to make<br>informed<br>decisions<br>(B-LS 1.) | <ol> <li>Could you tell me about<br/>a time your child had to<br/>think through a difficult<br/>problem by himself/herself?</li> <li>What steps did he or she<br/>take? What solution was<br/>found?</li> <li>How often does your<br/>child get the opportunity<br/>to work through critical<br/>decisions or problems? How<br/>does he/she react?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Critical-thinking skills<br/>are part of student<br/>development in the area<br/>of career and college<br/>readiness. What types of<br/>projects or activities might<br/>your organization or group<br/>have that our students<br/>could assist with to develop<br/>these skills?</li> <li>What other real-world<br/>problems might our<br/>students help solve to gain<br/>experience with critical<br/>thinking?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>How do you react when faced<br/>with a new and challenging<br/>situation in the classroom or<br/>during an extracurricular activity?</li> <li>Can you describe a time you<br/>worked through a challenging<br/>situation? How did you feel?</li> <li>Choosing a career path can<br/>feel like a big decision. What<br/>information have you gathered<br/>to help you make decisions about<br/>your future?</li> <li>Thinking about challenges you<br/>want to solve in life may help you<br/>narrow down a career path. Have<br/>you thought about challenges<br/>you would like to solve?</li> <li>You might change your mind,<br/>but what type of education are<br/>you currently leaning toward<br/>(four-year college, two-year<br/>college, industry-recognized<br/>training program or going<br/>straight to work)?</li> <li>How do your values and<br/>interests play a role in your<br/>decision? (School counselors:<br/>Utilize career assessment results<br/>here.)</li> <li>If a college admissions<br/>counselor or human resources<br/>department at a potential<br/>employer were to evaluate your<br/>behaviors at school, what would<br/>they say?</li> <li>What are you currently doing<br/>that will help you accomplish<br/>your goals?</li> <li>Anything you need to adjust?</li> </ol> |

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| Demonstrate<br>creativity<br>(B-LS 2.)                                      | <ol> <li>Tell me about ways in<br/>which your child is creative<br/>or imaginative.</li> <li>How do you think<br/>creativity helps your child<br/>learn?</li> </ol>  | <ol> <li>Many employers are<br/>looking for employees<br/>who can be innovative,<br/>out-of-the-box creative<br/>thinkers. In what ways does<br/>out-of-the-box thinking<br/>help your organization<br/>work strategically in the<br/>community?</li> <li>How might we help<br/>students be more creative?</li> <li>Many people think of<br/>creativity in terms of arts<br/>and humanities. Do you<br/>have examples of creativity<br/>in STEM that might help us<br/>stimulate student interest<br/>in STEM fields?</li> <li>How might we do a<br/>better job of integrating<br/>STEM and art (STEAM) in<br/>our school?</li> <li>Note, these won't be<br/>useful questions for every<br/>community partner.</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>What world/community<br/>challenges do you want to solve<br/>(miracle question)?</li> <li>How would you approach this<br/>challenge differently than what<br/>is being done in the world/your<br/>community now?</li> <li>Can you think of careers<br/>related to tackling this challenge?</li> <li>Can you think of any STEM<br/>careers related to tackling this<br/>challenge?</li> </ol>  |
| Use time-<br>management,<br>organizational<br>and study skills<br>(B-LS 3.) | <ol> <li>How would you rate your<br/>child's time-management,<br/>organizational and study<br/>skills?</li> <li>In what ways do his/her<br/>habits align and not align<br/>with future goals?</li> <li>In what ways do you<br/>support your child's<br/>time-management,<br/>organizational and study<br/>skills?</li> <li>Is there anything you<br/>think would be helpful to<br/>your child to support his/<br/>her time-management,<br/>organizational and study<br/>skills?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Many employers are<br/>looking for employees with<br/>excellent organization<br/>and time-management<br/>(self-initiation) skills. How<br/>important is that to your<br/>organization?</li> <li>What are some examples<br/>of things that might go<br/>wrong if individuals in your<br/>organization did not have<br/>these skills?</li> <li>What are some ways you<br/>could demonstrate these<br/>skills to students that might<br/>help them connect school<br/>to the world of work (e.g.,<br/>a three-minute video that<br/>would be shown during<br/>a classroom lesson on<br/>organization)?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>How would you rate your time-<br/>management, organizational and<br/>study skills on a scale of 1-10?<br/>Describe your rating.</li> <li>Do you believe your strategies<br/>will get you the grades, future<br/>job and postsecondary education<br/>experience you want? How?</li> <li>Is there anything you would<br/>like to change about your time-<br/>management or study skills that<br/>will help you reach your goals? (If<br/>yes, have student develop a plan.<br/>If no, then check back in at a later<br/>date.)</li> </ol> |

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| Apply self-<br>motivation and<br>self-direction to<br>learning (B-LS 4.) | Note to school counselors:<br>For these questions<br>consider having students<br>share their career<br>assessments with parents/<br>guardians.<br>1. Are your child's career<br>assessments connecting<br>to his/her classes and/or<br>extracurricular activities?<br>2. Are there classes or<br>extracurricular activities<br>your child could take that<br>would better relate to his/<br>her career interests? | <ol> <li>Self-motivated learning is<br/>important because in their<br/>careers students will have<br/>to be self-initiating. How<br/>might we improve self-<br/>motivation in high school<br/>students?</li> <li>What does your<br/>organization do to inspire<br/>self-motivation in youth?</li> </ol> | Note to school counselors:<br>For these questions consider<br>referring to the student's career<br>assessments to help the student<br>relate motivation to work values.<br>1. After taking the career<br>assessments, what do you notice<br>is important to you in a career?<br>2. How do your career<br>assessments connect to your<br>classes and/or extracurricular<br>activities?<br>3. Is there anything you would<br>like to adjust to better align your<br>activities to what is important to<br>you? |
| Apply media<br>and technology<br>skills (B-LS 5.)                        | <ol> <li>Do you have Internet<br/>access at home?</li> <li>Can we assist you in<br/>finding a convenient<br/>location for your child to<br/>access the Internet for<br/>academic purposes?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>How do you use media<br/>and technology in your<br/>organization?</li> <li>What technology skills<br/>do people need to have to<br/>be hired or be successful in<br/>your organization?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>What types of technology and<br/>software do you use regularly?<br/>How do you use it?</li> <li>How can these technologies<br/>assist you in your future career?</li> <li>Can you think of some STEM<br/>careers related to your hobbies/<br/>interests?</li> <li>Are there any STEM careers you<br/>would like to know more about?</li> </ol>  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
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| Set high<br>standards of<br>quality (B-LS 6.)   | <ol> <li>Are you familiar with the college admissions process?</li> <li>Would you like more information about college admissions?</li> <li>Has your child taken any SAT or ACT prep courses? Has your child completed any dual credit, dual enrollment or industry certifications? If not, would you like more information about these services?</li> <li>Are you familiar with the FAFSA?</li> <li>Would you like more information about the FAFSA?</li> </ol> | Consider collaborating<br>with college admissions<br>counselors and financial<br>aid advisors to provide<br>information to parents and<br>students.<br>1. Given that schools are<br>often told to push students<br>to achieve high standards<br>of quality, how would you<br>as a community partner<br>define high standards of<br>quality?<br>2. What measures of quality<br>do you believe accurately<br>reflect high standards for<br>our students?<br>3. How might we better<br>prepare our students to<br>meet high standards of<br>quality in their future<br>employment? | <ol> <li>Tell me about a project,<br/>assignment or activity that you<br/>put a lot of effort into. (Be<br/>sure students describe specifics<br/>about the actions they took to<br/>accomplish the task.)</li> <li>How did you feel about the<br/>results of your hard work?</li> <li>If you continue to put a lot<br/>effort into your work, how do<br/>you think you will do in college<br/>or on the job?</li> <li>Are there any classes or<br/>activities you are involved in that<br/>you would like to put more effort<br/>into?</li> <li>What type of postsecondary<br/>training have you considered?</li> <li>What do you know about the<br/>college admissions process?</li> <li>Have you taken any SAT or ACT<br/>prep courses? If not, would you<br/>like to?</li> <li>If you choose to go to college,<br/>do you know how you will pay<br/>for it?</li> </ol> |
| Identify long-<br>and short-term<br>academic, career<br>and social/<br>emotional goals<br>(B-LS 7.) | Consider having students<br>share their goals with<br>parents/guardians on an<br>annual basis.  |   | Note to school counselor:<br>Consider goal setting with<br>students throughout high school.<br>1. Based on your exploration<br>of different career options and<br>career assessments do you have<br>ideas about future careers?<br>Describe.<br>2. What are you currently doing<br>that is helping you prepare<br>for your life after high school?<br>Socially? Academically? Career<br>related?<br>3. What are you not doing that<br>you think would help?<br>4. I'd like you to set a goal<br>that is specific and challenging<br>but attainable related to your<br>academics. Given your career<br>interests and postsecondary<br>plans, what academic goal would<br>make sense for you?   |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Actively engage<br>in challenging<br>coursework<br>(B-LS 8.)  | Consider having students<br>share their goals with<br>parents/guardians on an<br>annual basis.          | <ol> <li>When students are<br/>challenged in courses, we<br/>want them to develop<br/>perseverance and resilience<br/>by working through<br/>difficulties. How do you<br/>think we might build<br/>challenges into courses and<br/>support student strengths?</li> <li>In what ways might<br/>students benefit from<br/>team building, cooperative<br/>learning and collaboration<br/>skills in working through<br/>challenging coursework?</li> <li>What other skills might<br/>help them learn to navigate<br/>these challenges and build<br/>perseverance and resilience.</li> </ol> | <ul> <li>These questions are a continuation of number 7 above.</li> <li>1. Are there any adjustments we should make to your course schedule for next term or next year that would better prepare you and align to your future goals?</li> <li>2. Are there classes where you are putting in a lot of effort to succeed? Describe.</li> <li>3. Are there classes where you would like to put in more effort? Describe.</li> <li>4. What are you willing to do differently?</li> </ul>   |
| Gather evidence<br>and consider<br>multiple<br>perspectives to<br>make informed<br>decisions<br>(B-LS 9.) | Consider having students<br>share their career interest<br>with parents/guardians on<br>an annual basis |   | Note to school counselor: This is<br>less about questions and more<br>about students investigating/<br>exploring career and<br>postsecondary options, interests,<br>values and abilities.<br>1. After engaging in career<br>exploration, taking career<br>assessments, talking to<br>community members about<br>careers and taking into account<br>what you like, what types of<br>careers are of interest?<br>2. What type of postsecondary<br>training is going to help you get<br>the career you want?<br>3. What type of exploration<br>have you done in terms of your<br>postsecondary training choice?<br>4. Do you need help with the<br>admissions process, looking into<br>financing options or anything<br>else? |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Participate in<br>enrichment and<br>extracurricular<br>activities (B-LS<br>10.) | <ol> <li>In what types of<br/>afterschool activities,<br/>weekend and summer<br/>activities/programs is your<br/>child involved?</li> <li>In terms of school success<br/>and career preparation,<br/>how might extracurricular<br/>activities help your child<br/>develop? What skills or<br/>interpersonal relationships<br/>might be developed<br/>through these activities?</li> </ol>  | <ol> <li>Enrichment and<br/>extracurricular activities<br/>help students develop<br/>workplace skills and<br/>interpersonal relationships.<br/>How might we partner with<br/>you to improve enrichment<br/>or extracurricular programs<br/>for our students?</li> <li>What kinds of programs<br/>are needed in our school<br/>community?</li> </ol>  | <ol> <li>What kinds of things do you<br/>enjoy doing after school? On<br/>weekends? In the summer?</li> <li>What types of activities<br/>would you like to be involved<br/>in? What keeps you from being<br/>more involved in extracurricular<br/>activities?</li> <li>If you could choose any<br/>weekend activity to participate in,<br/>what would it be?</li> <li>How might participating in<br/>these kinds of activities prepare<br/>you for your life after high school?</li> </ol>   |
| BEHAVIOR: SE  | LF-MANAGEMENT SKIL   | LS   |  |
| Demonstrate<br>ability to assume<br>responsibility<br>(B-SMS 1.)                | <ol> <li>What responsibility do<br/>you believe your child has<br/>as a citizen?</li> <li>What opportunities does<br/>your child have to fulfill<br/>responsibilities related to<br/>community?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>As students get older, we<br/>want to encourage them<br/>to take more personal<br/>responsibility. From your<br/>perspective, how can<br/>schools encourage students<br/>to take more responsibility?</li> <li>Given that students are<br/>citizens, what are some<br/>ways students can begin to<br/>assume responsibility in our<br/>community?</li> <li>How can we partner<br/>to provide students with<br/>these types of service<br/>opportunities?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>Tell me about your<br/>responsibilities. Include<br/>responsibilities both in school and<br/>outside of school.</li> <li>How are your responsibilities<br/>helping you achieve your career<br/>or college goals?</li> <li>Is there anything you would<br/>like to add that will help you<br/>achieve your goals?</li> <li>Are there any community<br/>service activities you would<br/>enjoy?</li> </ol>  |
| Demonstrate<br>self-discipline<br>and self-control<br>(B-SMS 2.)                | <ol> <li>Self-control is important<br/>in a school and work<br/>setting. When something<br/>upsets your child, what are<br/>some ways he/she copes?</li> <li>Given that self-control<br/>takes time to develop, how<br/>would you describe your<br/>child's maturity over time?<br/>More or less self-control?</li> <li>When your child loses<br/>self-control, how does he/<br/>she regain it?</li> <li>Sticking with a task<br/>when it gets difficult is<br/>also important in a school<br/>and work setting. When<br/>your child is faced with a<br/>difficult task how does he/<br/>she handle it?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>As you think about the<br/>importance of self-control<br/>and self-discipline for<br/>future workers, what self-<br/>discipline or self-control<br/>skills do you think high<br/>school students need?</li> <li>Given that skills develop<br/>over time, how might<br/>we do a better job of<br/>promoting these skills in<br/>the classroom?</li> <li>What are some ways<br/>to promote these skills<br/>through enrichment and<br/>afterschool programs?</li> <li>How might your<br/>organization partner with<br/>us to promote these skills?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>What is a goal you have set for<br/>yourself and achieved?</li> <li>What steps did you take to<br/>achieve that goal?</li> <li>What is another goal you want<br/>to set for yourself?</li> <li>As you think about students in<br/>our school, how many of them<br/>handle anger or disappointment<br/>well?</li> <li>Describe how most students<br/>handle these feelings.</li> <li>Has anyone ever taught you<br/>a different way to handle these<br/>emotions? Did their suggestion<br/>work? Why or why not?</li> <li>Would you be willing to try<br/>some new strategies?</li> <li>Why would self-control and<br/>self- determination matter for<br/>your future career?</li> </ol> |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Demonstrate<br>ability to work<br>independently<br>(B-SMS 3.)   | <ol> <li>How often does your<br/>child do his/her homework<br/>without assistance?</li> <li>When your child requires<br/>assistance, what type of<br/>assistance does he/she ask<br/>for?</li> <li>What are some things<br/>your child enjoys doing by<br/>himself/herself?</li> <li>Could you tell me about<br/>a time your child needed<br/>help but did not ask for<br/>it? Afterward, how did<br/>your child think through<br/>the situation and the<br/>consequences?</li> <li>Can you think of a time<br/>when your child missed an<br/>opportunity because he/<br/>she would have had to do<br/>something alone? How did<br/>you help your child think<br/>about that situation?</li> <li>It can be natural for high<br/>school students to want<br/>to be around their friends<br/>all the time. How do you<br/>ensure your child is getting<br/>a balance of alone/family/<br/>friend time?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Employers sometimes cite<br/>a desire for workers to be<br/>independent. How do we<br/>help foster independence<br/>in high school students?</li> <li>Could you think of<br/>some times when we don't<br/>want students to work<br/>independently?</li> <li>Can you think of some<br/>ways your organization<br/>needs employees to be<br/>both independent and<br/>interdependent in their<br/>work?</li> <li>How could we effectively<br/>help teachers think of ways<br/>to promote independence<br/>and interdependence in<br/>classrooms?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Tell me about the last class<br/>assignment you did on your own<br/>with no help at all.</li> <li>Which do you prefer, working<br/>on your own or with others?</li> <li>When you don't have the<br/>option to work with others on<br/>projects, are you able to complete<br/>projects anyway?</li> <li>What is the best thing about<br/>working alone?</li> <li>What is the best thing about<br/>working with others?</li> <li>What is one thing you enjoy<br/>doing alone?</li> <li>Think of your future career<br/>goal. Will you be working alone<br/>or with others? Both?</li> </ol>                                       |
| Demonstrate<br>ability to delay<br>immediate<br>gratification<br>for long-term<br>rewards<br>(B-SMS 4.) | <ol> <li>How long is your child<br/>willing to wait to be<br/>rewarded for a task?</li> <li>When your child thinks<br/>about his/her future, how<br/>many years is your child<br/>willing to dedicate to<br/>college?</li> </ol>  |  | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you<br/>wanted something and had to<br/>wait a long time for it.</li> <li>When you think about<br/>postsecondary options, does the<br/>time it will take to complete the<br/>degree/training matter to you?</li> <li>Even though it may take a long<br/>time to get through, what are<br/>some reasons why it is important<br/>to go to college?</li> <li>How will you benefit from<br/>going to college?</li> <li>What if you chose a career that<br/>requires you to go to college for<br/>a really long time, such as eight<br/>years beyond high school. How<br/>would you feel about that?</li> </ol> |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Demonstrate<br>perseverance to<br>achieve long-<br>and short-term<br>goals (B-SMS 5.) | <ol> <li>Could you give me<br/>an example of a time<br/>your child set a goal and<br/>stuck with it until he/she<br/>accomplished it?</li> <li>Setting goals and sticking<br/>to them can be hard for<br/>students. What are some<br/>ways we can encourage<br/>your child to remember<br/>and stick to his/her school<br/>goals?</li> <li>What are some ways<br/>you encourage your child<br/>at home to remember and<br/>stick to his/her goals?</li> <li>What are some ways<br/>you would like to see<br/>us celebrate your child's<br/>accomplishments?</li> <li>What are some ways<br/>your family celebrates<br/>accomplishments?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Achieving long-term<br/>and short-term goals is<br/>important, and one way to<br/>do that is by persevering<br/>through difficulties. What<br/>are some ways we can<br/>remind kids to persevere<br/>and stick to their goals in<br/>the school environment?</li> <li>How can community<br/>partners remind students<br/>school is a goal worth<br/>achieving and that sticking<br/>to their goal matters?</li> <li>How can we work<br/>together to celebrate with<br/>students and their families<br/>when they accomplish<br/>goals?</li> </ol>        | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you set a<br/>goal for yourself and stuck to it.</li> <li>What makes it difficult to stick<br/>with goals?</li> <li>What helps you stick with your<br/>goals?</li> <li>What reminders or supports<br/>might help you stick with your<br/>goals in the future (e.g., daily<br/>lists, agendas, organization,<br/>written plans, goal charts, visual<br/>imagery, mindfulness).</li> <li>Would you be interested in<br/>learning some strategies for<br/>sticking to goals?</li> <li>In what ways might sticking to<br/>goals help you in college? In your<br/>future career?</li> </ol> |
| Demonstrate<br>ability to<br>overcome<br>barriers to<br>learning<br>(B-SMS 6.)        | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time<br/>your child had difficulty<br/>learning something.</li> <li>What helped your child<br/>to overcome this difficulty?</li> <li>What strategies has your<br/>child learned over time to<br/>be a better learner?</li> <li>How might we help your<br/>child be a better learner?</li> <li>As you think about<br/>future learning goals and<br/>challenges, what skills<br/>do you think your child<br/>still needs to develop to<br/>overcome future learning<br/>barriers?</li> </ol>  | <ol> <li>Sometimes high school<br/>students aren't successful<br/>because they haven't<br/>mastered the ability to<br/>overcome barriers to<br/>learning. What are some<br/>barriers to learning you see<br/>in our school community?</li> <li>How might we reduce<br/>barriers to student<br/>learning?</li> <li>What strategies do our<br/>students need to learn<br/>to overcome barriers to<br/>learning?</li> <li>How might we work<br/>together to help students<br/>and their parents recognize<br/>barriers to learning and<br/>overcome them?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you had<br/>difficulty learning something in<br/>one of your classes.</li> <li>What was the problem?</li> <li>How did you overcome the<br/>problem?</li> <li>If you were faced with a<br/>problem like this again, what<br/>would you do?</li> <li>What strategies do you use<br/>when you have an assignment<br/>you do not understand?</li> <li>What would you do in college<br/>or a work setting if you did not<br/>understand something?</li> </ol>   |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Demonstrate<br>effective coping<br>skills when<br>faced with a<br>problem<br>(B-SMS 7.)               | <ol> <li>How does your child<br/>react when faced with<br/>stress or a problem?</li> <li>How would you like for<br/>your child to react?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>Students face a lot of<br/>stress today. Learning to<br/>cope with this stress is<br/>an important skill. What<br/>types of coping strategies<br/>(positive or negative) have<br/>you seen students in our<br/>community using?</li> <li>What strategies would<br/>you like to see them using<br/>more often?</li> <li>How might we do<br/>a better job teaching<br/>students how to cope?</li> <li>How can our school work<br/>with your organization to<br/>promote positive student<br/>coping?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Tell me about a time you were<br/>faced with a difficult problem.<br/>How did you deal with it?</li> <li>What are some problems that<br/>people your age are faced with<br/>regularly?</li> <li>What advice might you give for<br/>how to handle these problems?</li> <li>Think about a time when you<br/>didn't handle a problem very<br/>well. What do you wish you'd<br/>done better?</li> <li>What did you learn from that<br/>experience that you have used or<br/>could use in other situations?</li> <li>How can you apply this to<br/>success in your education and a<br/>career?</li> <li>How common do you think it is<br/>for people to make mistakes?</li> <li>When people make mistakes,<br/>how should they handle it?</li> </ol> |
| Demonstrate<br>the ability to<br>balance school,<br>home and<br>community<br>activities<br>(B-SMS 8.) | <ol> <li>Sometimes students<br/>are asked to do a lot at<br/>home, school and in their<br/>community. As you think<br/>about your child, how are<br/>the demands on his/her<br/>time? Too much? Too little?</li> <li>What is a typical day like<br/>for your child?</li> <li>How do you think<br/>learning to manage all of<br/>this is preparing your child<br/>for college or a career?</li> <li>When does your child<br/>seem to have a handle<br/>on balancing all of these<br/>competing time demands?<br/>When does your child<br/>struggle to balance it all?</li> <li>What resources does<br/>your child use to maintain<br/>balance (calendars,<br/>agendas)?</li> <li>What skills does your<br/>child still need to develop<br/>to balance all of these<br/>demands?</li> <li>How might we help?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Students are asked to<br/>balance a lot between<br/>school, home and the<br/>community. How might<br/>students be better<br/>prepared to balance so<br/>much?</li> <li>How might we partner<br/>with you to provide<br/>support for families and<br/>students in achieving a<br/>healthy balance?</li> <li>How might we better<br/>convey messages about<br/>learning to balance<br/>these activities as part of<br/>future career and college<br/>development?</li> </ol>                                    | <ol> <li>Tell me about your typical day.</li> <li>If you had more time in your<br/>schedule, how would you like to<br/>spend it?</li> <li>As you think about how you<br/>spend your time, would you<br/>consider managing your time<br/>differently if it meant doing<br/>more of what you enjoy or find<br/>meaningful?</li> <li>Which of the following<br/>statements better describes you?</li> <li>There just is not enough time in<br/>the day to do everything I want<br/>to do.</li> <li>I have no idea where my time<br/>goes.</li> </ol>  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors   | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
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| Demonstrate<br>personal safety<br>skills (B-SMS 9.)  | 1. Students all vary in the<br>amount of risk or caution<br>they will take. When you<br>think about your child and<br>his/her personal safety, how<br>risky or cautious would you<br>say he/she is?  | <ol> <li>There are many<br/>personal safety skills<br/>students need to develop.<br/>What issues of personal<br/>safety do you think our<br/>students need to be<br/>prepared to address?</li> <li>How might we know<br/>if our students are truly<br/>prepared to deal with<br/>safety situations? Consider<br/>active shooter drills,<br/>personal safety workshops,<br/>Internet safety training.</li> <li>How might we work<br/>with your organization<br/>to prepare students and<br/>their families for the safety<br/>issues facing students in our<br/>community?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Think about your physical and<br/>emotional safety here at school.<br/>What kinds of things might<br/>happen that could make you or<br/>other students feel unsafe?</li> <li>What about outside of school?</li> <li>Is there anything you can<br/>do to increase your physical or<br/>emotional safety?</li> <li>What adults can support you in<br/>increasing your safety?</li> </ol> |
| Demonstrate<br>ability to<br>manage<br>transitions and<br>ability to adapt<br>to changing<br>situations and<br>responsibilities<br>(B-SMS 10.) | <ol> <li>Consider a time when<br/>your child had to adapt to<br/>a changing situation. How<br/>did he or she respond?</li> <li>How flexible is your<br/>child when given new<br/>responsibility or tasks?</li> <li>How do you prepare<br/>your child for change?</li> <li>What are some of the<br/>strategies your child has<br/>developed for coping with<br/>change or transitions?</li> </ol> | 1. Changes in a workplace<br>are a given. How<br>can we prepare our<br>students to adapt to<br>changing situations and<br>responsibilities?  | <ol> <li>What is change like for you?</li> <li>What is it like for you when<br/>teachers make changes to<br/>an assignment you did not<br/>anticipate or your class changes<br/>unexpectedly?</li> <li>Have you discovered any<br/>strategies that help you adapt to<br/>change?</li> <li>How might these strategies<br/>help you in college or at a job?</li> </ol>                            |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents   | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |  |  |
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| <b>BEHAVIOR: SC</b>   | BEHAVIOR: SOCIAL SKILLS   |  |  |  |  |
| Use effective<br>oral and written<br>communication<br>skills and<br>listening skills<br>(B-SS 1.) | <ol> <li>Think of your child and<br/>his/her communication<br/>with others. Think of how<br/>your child speaks, writes,<br/>listens. If you had to pick<br/>one of these areas as a<br/>strength (speaking, writing,<br/>listening) which would it<br/>be, and why?</li> <li>How might that strength<br/>help your child in his/her<br/>future career?</li> <li>How accurately does<br/>your child understand<br/>what you and others are<br/>communicating?</li> <li>If you could improve one<br/>thing about your child's<br/>communication, what<br/>would it be?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Many employers want<br/>to hire individuals who are<br/>effective communicators.<br/>What does effective<br/>communication mean to<br/>you?</li> <li>How do you assess<br/>effective communication in<br/>the hiring process?</li> <li>What activities or<br/>programs would your<br/>organization be willing to<br/>offer to help us improve<br/>student communication<br/>strategies (e.g., poster<br/>fair judges, mock<br/>interviewing)?</li> </ol>  | <ol> <li>Think about how you speak<br/>with, write and listen to others.<br/>Which of those is your strength?</li> <li>Which do you need to<br/>improve?</li> <li>How do you know when you<br/>are doing a good job listening to<br/>others?</li> <li>How do you know when you<br/>need to do a better job listening?</li> <li>Why might speaking, writing<br/>and listening be important for<br/>your future career goals?</li> <li>What do you think future<br/>employers look for when it comes<br/>to communication when hiring<br/>people?</li> </ol> |  |  |
| Create positive<br>and supportive<br>relationships<br>with other<br>students<br>(B-SS 2.)         | <ol> <li>How would you describe<br/>your child's relationships<br/>with peers?</li> <li>If you could change<br/>anything about the way<br/>your child interacts with<br/>others his or her age, what<br/>would it be?</li> <li>How do you think your<br/>child's ability to relate to<br/>same-age peers will help<br/>him/her in college? In<br/>career?</li> <li>What concerns do you<br/>have about peers and their<br/>influence on your child?</li> <li>How do you talk about<br/>these concerns at home?</li> </ol>   | <ol> <li>Promoting positive<br/>peer relationships is<br/>important to the successful<br/>overall development of<br/>students. How would you<br/>characterize the peer<br/>relationships of youth in<br/>our community?</li> <li>How could we build<br/>positive rapport and trust<br/>among youth?</li> <li>How might we decrease<br/>relational aggression,<br/>bullying and interpersonal<br/>violence?</li> <li>How will making these<br/>relationships positive help<br/>promote career and college<br/>readiness?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>How would you describe your<br/>relationships with other students?</li> <li>Have you ever wished other<br/>students treated you differently?<br/>How so?</li> <li>How do you show support and<br/>kindness to other students?</li> <li>How might you show more<br/>support to other students in the<br/>future?</li> <li>How will supporting others to<br/>succeed help you succeed in your<br/>future career?</li> </ol>   |  |  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
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| Create<br>relationships<br>with adults that<br>support success<br>(B-SS 3.)             | <ol> <li>Describe how your child<br/>interacts with adults.</li> <li>If you could improve<br/>or change your child's<br/>relationships with adults,<br/>what would you want the<br/>relationships to be like?</li> <li>As you think about<br/>the adults in your child's<br/>life, who is a positive<br/>influence in terms of career<br/>aspirations?</li> <li>Who can support your<br/>child in making positive<br/>career and college<br/>decisions?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Positive adults who<br/>interact with youth to<br/>support career and college<br/>readiness are an important<br/>part of the school program.<br/>How do adults in your<br/>organization or program<br/>interact with youth in our<br/>school community?</li> <li>In what ways can we<br/>create positive relationships<br/>between students at<br/>our school and in your<br/>organization to promote<br/>career and college success?</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>As you think about your future<br/>career, what adults might help<br/>you think about or reach your<br/>future career goals?</li> <li>Considering the adults<br/>you know, who might be<br/>able to provide support or<br/>encouragement to you as you<br/>think about going to college?</li> <li>How would you define<br/>mentor?</li> <li>Is there anyone in your life<br/>you would consider a mentor?<br/>Describe why.</li> <li>How can a mentor help you<br/>reach your career and college<br/>goals?</li> <li>If you do not have a mentor,<br/>let's brainstorm some ideas to<br/>connect you with someone who<br/>can help.</li> </ol> |
| Demonstrate<br>empathy<br>(B-SS 4.)   | 1. Could you tell me about<br>a time when your child<br>showed worry or concern<br>for someone who needed<br>help?   | <ol> <li>Empathy is an important<br/>social skill for our students<br/>to demonstrate. What<br/>factors help students<br/>develop empathy?</li> <li>What are some barriers<br/>to developing empathy?</li> <li>What are some activities<br/>or programs hosted by your<br/>organization that help<br/>students develop socially<br/>including empathy and<br/>concern for others?</li> <li>How can we promote<br/>empathy in classrooms?</li> </ol>       | <ol> <li>Could you tell me about a time<br/>when you saw someone in a bad<br/>situation. How did you feel, and<br/>what did you do?</li> <li>What responsibility do you<br/>have for helping others?</li> <li>Are you involved in any<br/>activities where you help others?</li> <li>If so, how do you think these<br/>behaviors will help you in your<br/>future work setting?</li> <li>If not, can you think of any<br/>volunteer activities in which you<br/>would like to get involved?</li> </ol>  |
| Demonstrate<br>ethical decision-<br>making<br>and social<br>responsibility<br>(B-SS 5.) |  | <ol> <li>How do ethics play a role<br/>in your organization?</li> <li>What do you look for<br/>regarding ethical decision-<br/>making in a potential<br/>employee?</li> <li>Can you think of<br/>anything you would like us<br/>teach our students about<br/>ethical decision-making?</li> <li>Do you have any<br/>activities/resources that<br/>could help our students<br/>develop ethical decision-<br/>making?</li> </ol>                             | <ol> <li>Honesty and trustworthiness<br/>are important in a work setting.<br/>Can you tell me about a time<br/>when you made a decision to be<br/>honest and trustworthy? How did<br/>you feel?</li> <li>Why might employers want to<br/>work with people who are honest<br/>and trustworthy?</li> </ol>  |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors   | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community  | Questions and Prompts/Students   |
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| Use effective<br>collaboration<br>and cooperation<br>skills (B-SS 6.)                            | <ol> <li>Could you describe a<br/>project or activity your child<br/>did (in or out of school)<br/>that required collaboration<br/>with others?</li> <li>What was your child's<br/>response to the project?<br/>Highlights? Challenges?</li> <li>When doing group work,<br/>what role does your child<br/>tend to take in the group<br/>(supportive/task leader)?</li> <li>To work well with others<br/>as he or she gets older,<br/>what types of collaboration<br/>or cooperation skills does<br/>your child still need to<br/>develop?</li> </ol>                             | Combine with leadership<br>below.<br>1. Collaboration,<br>leadership, cooperation<br>and an appreciation for<br>diversity are important for<br>helping individuals become<br>productive members of<br>organizations. How does<br>your organization foster<br>these four skills?<br>2. How might we partner<br>together to promote<br>these skills in high school<br>students?<br>3. What types of activities<br>or events might be offered<br>through our partnership to<br>enhance these skill sets?<br>4. How might we better<br>convey to parents the<br>importance of cultural<br>appreciation for their<br>child's success? | <ol> <li>What types of group activities<br/>do you enjoy doing?</li> <li>What makes group work fun/<br/>difficult?</li> <li>Could you describe a time<br/>you learned a lot from a group<br/>project?</li> <li>Could you describe a time<br/>when a group project didn't go<br/>well?</li> <li>Why might group work be<br/>important in your future career?</li> <li>Can you give an example of<br/>how groups work together in<br/>career settings (e.g., construction<br/>site, surgical teams, marketing/<br/>advertising groups).</li> <li>Are there any things you need<br/>to do differently when you are<br/>working in groups?</li> </ol>  |
| Use leadership<br>and teamwork<br>skills to work<br>effectively in<br>diverse teams<br>(B-SS 7.) | <ol> <li>Could you describe a<br/>time your child was in the<br/>role of leader?</li> <li>How did he/she adapt to<br/>that role?</li> <li>How would you describe<br/>the opportunities your<br/>child has had to work with<br/>individuals from other<br/>ethnicities, religions, race<br/>groups?</li> <li>Given that cultural<br/>sensitivity and diversity<br/>appreciation are important<br/>to many employers, how<br/>would you like to see our<br/>school work to prepare<br/>your child to work with<br/>individuals who might be<br/>different from him/her?</li> </ol> |  | <ol> <li>Could you describe a time you<br/>got to lead a group or team?<br/>What was that like?</li> <li>If you could be a leader of any<br/>type of group, what would it be?</li> <li>Many employers are looking<br/>for individuals with leadership<br/>skills. Why do you think they<br/>want leadership skills?</li> <li>America is diverse. There are<br/>people of many races, religions,<br/>ethnicities, and you will likely<br/>have the opportunity to work<br/>with diverse people. What might<br/>you learn from working with<br/>people who are different from<br/>you?</li> <li>What activities have you been<br/>involved in where you got to<br/>work with people from different,<br/>races, religions and ethnicities?</li> <li>Can you think of any activities<br/>where you could gain even<br/>more awareness about different<br/>people?</li> </ol> |

| ASCA Mindsets<br>& Behaviors  | Questions/Parents  | Questions/Community   | Questions and Prompts/Students  |
|---|--|---|---|
| Demonstrate<br>advocacy skills<br>and ability to<br>assert self when<br>necessary<br>(B-SS 8.)                        | 1. Could you tell me about<br>a time your child was<br>assertive for himself/herself<br>or someone else? | 1. Advocacy skills and<br>assertiveness are important<br>in a work setting, yet not<br>always done effectively.<br>What tips can you offer<br>our students for how<br>to best advocate for an<br>idea? How should they<br>approach the situation/<br>person? What should their<br>communication sound like? | <ol> <li>Think of a time when you<br/>felt someone was being treated<br/>unjustly.</li> <li>How did you handle it?</li> <li>Did the situation improve after<br/>you intervened?</li> <li>How might advocacy skills be<br/>important in a work setting?</li> <li>What is the best way to<br/>communicate your concerns<br/>so other people can listen and<br/>understand your perspective?</li> <li>How effective do you think<br/>you are at communicating your<br/>concerns?</li> <li>Any adjustments you would<br/>like to make to improve your how<br/>you communicate your concerns?</li> </ol> |
| Demonstrate<br>social maturity<br>and behaviors<br>appropriate<br>to the<br>situation and<br>environment<br>(B-SS 9.) |  | 1. What are some common<br>inappropriate behaviors<br>you see on the job?   | <ol> <li>What is a common<br/>inappropriate behavior you see<br/>other students doing?</li> <li>How do you think this will<br/>work for them in the future if<br/>they keep doing the behavior?</li> </ol>  |

The Career Conversations provide a guide for working with middle and high school students, parents and community members to address the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success: K-12 College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Every Student. The Career Conversations questions are based on ecosystems theory, counseling theory and an extensive review of counseling and career counseling literature. The questions can be used to work with individuals and groups of students, parents and community members. The Career Conversations were developed by ASCA for the Colorado Department of Education.



