Community and Youth Collaborative Institute
School Experience Surveys – Technical Report

CAYCI Career and College Readiness Scale
Parent/Caregiver Version

Produced By:
Dawn Anderson-Butcher, Anthony J. Amorose, Aidyn Iachini, and Annahita Ball

Community and Youth Collaborative Institute
College of Social Work
The Ohio State University

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I. Definition of Construct

The Career and College Readiness scale measures the extent to which parents perceive their children’s readiness to achieve their educational and occupational goals.

II. Relevance for Practice

Studies have shown that parents perceive their schools to be an active partner in preparing their children for college and future employment (Martinez, Cortez & Saenx, 2013). However, despite ambitious educational and career aspirations for their students, parents often lack basic information about how to fulfill these postsecondary goals. In fact, students and their parents may not have the essential information resources, personal support networks, and structured programs they need to effectively perform educational and postsecondary planning activities (Cabrera & La Nasa, 2000; Hrabowski, Maton, & Grief, 1998; Wimberly & Noeth, 2005). Given parents value the role of the school in the preparing their children for their futures, this assessment can not only inform the need to improve students’ college and career readiness, but also provide an evaluation of the need to better include parents in these processes.

III. Scale Description and Instructions

A. Items

1. I know my child will finish high school.
2. I want my child to go to college.
3. I talk to my child about the importance of going to college.
4. I know how to prepare my child for college.
5. I know my child will go to college.
6. I know how to get help to pay for my child’s college.
7. There are adults, other than me, who expect my child to go to college.
8. I often talk to my child about career options.
9. My child sets realistic goals related to his/her education.
10. I am confident my child will reach his/her educational goals.
11. My child believes that what he/she learns in school will be useful in the future.
12. My child understands how school will prepare him/her for a future career.
13. The school gives me information I can use to help my child get the job he/she wants.
14. The school gives me information I can use to help my child go to college.

B. Response Options

Response options for each item include the following:
1 = Strongly disagree (SD)
2 = Disagree (D)
3 = Neither disagree or agree (N)
4 = Agree (A)
5 = Strongly agree (SA)

C. Instructions for Respondents

These questions ask you about your child’s future. Please mark how strongly you feel about each sentence.
**D. Instructions for Scale Administers**

For complete instructions on how to administer the survey, reference the “Student Survey Directions” that are printed on the survey itself. Once each parent has a survey, explain that the purpose of the survey is to learn more about their experiences at school. They should mark one answer per statement, selecting the choice that best reflects how they feel.

As parents finish, look thoroughly through the surveys to make sure that they didn’t miss any items or questions. Please remember that parents do NOT have to answer every question, but do encourage them to complete as much of the survey as possible. Remind students that their answers will help the school know how to best support them.

**IV. Scoring Procedures**

An average of the response scores from the 14 items should be calculated and used as an indicator of parents’ perceptions of career and college readiness, with higher scores reflecting greater levels of motivation.

**V. Past and Current Scale Development**

Originally, this scale was created to assess career and college readiness among middle and high school students. However, studies examining this construct among parents are limited, and few measures have been developed to capture a greater breath of how these perceptions influence students’ career and college readiness. Recognizing this gap, researchers created the Career and College Readiness scale (Parent Version) to assess this construct among parents in schools. In its current state, this scale (14 items) has not undergone psychometric evaluation amongst a sample of parents, but data will be collected during the 2015-16 school year as part of a needs assessment within school’s improvement planning processes. Following the collection of this data, this report will be updated to display the psychometric properties of the Career and College Readiness scale (Parent Version).

**VI. Summary**

Overall, the results of the psychometric testing on the Career and College Readiness scale will be added following data collection efforts with parents. The use of this measure can provide valuable information about parents’ perceptions about their children’s career and college aspirations.

**VIII. References**


**IX. Recommended Citation of Scale**

When using the Career and College Readiness scale for program evaluation or research purposes, we recommend using the following citation:

If this scale is used along with additional Community and Youth Collaborative Initiative School Experience Surveys, then the following citation would be appropriate to cover all scales: