



K-12 Buyer's Guide: College, Career, and Life Readiness

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Introduction

Providing equitable access and support for students as they discover who they are, what they want to become, and how they will achieve their goals is an essential priority for today's K-12 schools and districts. Throughout their time in school, students should have access to the resources they need to gain skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in today's education systems and beyond.

As students plan for their futures, schools and districts need to ensure their college, career, and life readiness (CCLR) programs take a holistic approach that supports the whole student. An interoperable, research-backed, and comprehensive CCLR solution can help students by giving them the tools they need to uncover their strengths and interests, match them with potential careers, and find their best-fit path to reach their goals. An impactful CCLR solution also provides the data needed to track progress, monitor program effectiveness, and make real-time decisions.

This buying guide will help you better evaluate what to look for in a CCLR solution.

If your district already has one in place, the evaluation questions will help you determine the strengths and weaknesses of the current program. For any reader, this guide will help you understand what your school or district could look like with Naviance by PowerSchool, the leading college, career, and life readiness solution, as your partner.



How to Prepare Your Students for Successful Futures

Are You Really Preparing Your Students for Postsecondary Success?

Students come to school with different experiences, backgrounds, abilities, and dreams. There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to preparing students for their future.

The mission and mandate for college, career, and life readiness has expanded over time, as has the complexity of supporting students. Schools and districts are looking for ways to equitably meet the changing needs of students. Not all students want to attend a four-year college, but all students and families want to have opportunities to learn about the different postsecondary options available to them. Whether the student is continuing their education at a college or technical school, enlisting in the military, joining the workforce, interning, or volunteering, they deserve to know how to reach their goals.

Many schools are understaffed with limited time and resources to provide individualized student support. **School counselors need an easy-to-use tool that allows them to have a holistic view of all their students and to identify gaps they need to address.**



Key Questions for Assessing Your Current Solution

This section will explore **six key questions** to determine how well your school or district is preparing students for their futures:

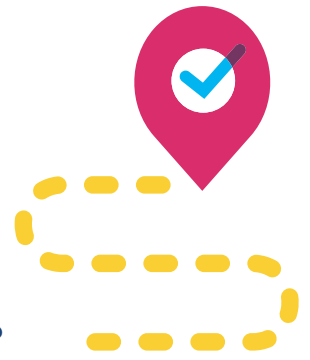
- 1 How are you supporting students' pathway planning?
- 2 Do all students have access to future exploration?
- 3 Do all students have access to resources to build critical life skills, such as social and emotional learning (SEL), interpersonal, and transition skills?
- 4 How are you ensuring students are meeting state graduation requirements?
- 5 How are you tracking and measuring the effectiveness of your CCLR program and student outcomes?
- 6 Do the solutions in your school district connect to provide a full view of a student's performance?

QUESTION #1:

Pathway Planning



How are you supporting students' pathway planning?



Every student will take a unique path toward their goals. Whether students plan to attend a four-year college, community college, trade or technical school, join the military, enter the workforce, or pursue a combination of these options, it is vital that they have the time, resources, and support to find their best-fit path.

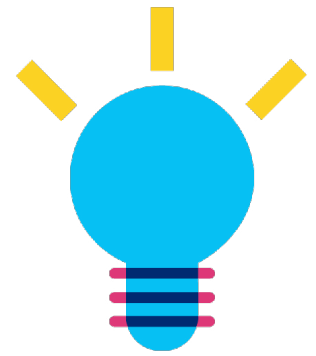
Pathway planning is a core part of a student's K-12 academic journey. **To plan effectively, students need to have access to a solution that supports individual pathway planning.**

Ask these **three questions** about your current CCLR programming:

- 1 Can students explore all postsecondary options available to them (four-year college, community college, technical school, military, workforce, internship, volunteer work, or a combination of these)?
- 2 Can students explore various careers that align with their strengths and interests?
- 3 Can staff easily assign tasks to support students and keep them on track toward their goals?

QUESTION #2:

Future Exploration



Do students have access to future exploration?

A growing body of research demonstrates the importance of providing career-connected learning experiences by the middle grades for students to develop a positive self-concept of their occupational prospects (Callahan, Ito, Mizuko, Rea, Wortman, & Wortman, 2019).

Some students from historically marginalized communities may get social cues that engagement in continued formal education or other fields is not for them. Schools and districts can help counteract this messaging by providing all students with ample opportunities to engage in future exploration and participate in real-world learning opportunities throughout their academic journeys.

Beginning career exploration in elementary school helps students develop career curiosity and build a knowledge bank that will benefit them as they enter middle and high school.

Ask these **three questions** about your current CCLR programming:

- 1** Do students have access to future exploration tools, such as career assessments, career cluster finder, or other career information tools?
- 2** Do students understand the various continued education paths available to them, as well as the resources available to fund that education?
- 3** Are students able to participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities to help them connect what they learn in the classroom to their future goals?



QUESTION #3:

Critical Life Skills



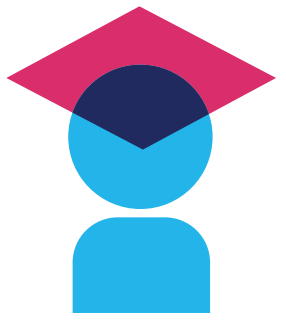
Do all students have access to resources to build critical life skills, such as SEL, interpersonal, and transition skills?

Although academic, career, and college knowledge are vital parts of a student's future success, **students also need to be equipped with the skills to succeed while they are in school and after, as they move forward in their postsecondary journeys.**

When students understand their strengths, know how to overcome obstacles, and learn to set goals effectively, they can apply those skills to all areas of their lives. When they learn successful teamwork and leadership skills, they can become effective, productive employees. And when they understand how to make successful transitions, they are better prepared for the changes they will face in life, both professionally and personally.

— Ask these **three questions** about your current CCLR programming:

- 1 Do your students have access to lessons on social and emotional learning (SEL)?
- 2 Do your educators have the tools they need to help students transition from middle school to high school and from high school to their postsecondary path?
- 3 Are you able to provide students with work-based learning experiences that build SEL and interpersonal skills?



QUESTION #4:

Graduation Requirements



How are you ensuring students are meeting state graduation requirements?

Schools and districts are being held increasingly accountable to state and federal mandates targeting student outcomes. **District leaders need a solution that helps them impact key student success indicators that reflect their school or district performance**, such as data on graduation rates or college acceptance.

Giving staff actionable insights into student progress towards graduation requirements is key to meeting and reporting on state and federal mandates. With better visibility into student progress toward graduation and postsecondary planning, educators can better support the needs of each student toward their goals.

— Ask these **three questions** about your current CCLR programming:

- 1 Do your educators have a clear understanding of student progress toward course completion and graduation requirements?
- 2 Are you able to easily run reports on progress and completion?
- 3 Are students able to complete multi-year course planning aligned to their interests while also meeting district and state graduation requirements?

QUESTION #5:

Student Outcomes



How are you tracking and measuring the effectiveness of your CCLR program and student outcomes?

Educators need a way to successfully implement, measure, and track activities related to their college and career initiatives. They need to be able to easily view student progress at the individual and school/district level to ensure they are on track and quickly intervene if their initiatives aren't producing the desired outcomes.

As many districts have moved away from compliance-driven usage to embedding college, career, and life readiness into their culture, educators need a reliable edtech provider with a proven track record of successful implementations and student outcomes.

— Ask these **four questions** about your current CCLR programming:

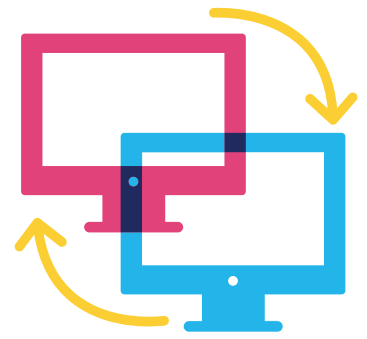
- 1 Do your educators have access to real-time data to view students' progress toward graduation and their postsecondary goals?
- 2 Do key leaders and stakeholders have easy access to school and district performance indicators?
- 3 Do your educators have access to real-time data to measure how effectively you are addressing gaps in postsecondary attainment?
- 4 Are you able to easily share student progress and CCLR program effectiveness with families?

QUESTION #6:

Connected Solutions



Do the solutions in your school district connect to provide a full view of a student's performance?



According to [RingCentral](#), 69% of tech users spend over 60 minutes a day navigating between applications. Interoperability—when software systems communicate with each other—can go a long way in relieving educators of the burden of juggling multiple applications and the time lost toggling between them.

Through the seamless integration of data, interoperability can also provide educators with more comprehensive insight into their students' progress. **A full view of a student's performance allows educators to better personalize student support.**

Ask these **three questions** about your CCLR programming:

- 1 Are your counselors able to collaborate with teachers to extend CCLR support beyond the counseling department?
- 2 Do educators have to piece together a full view of student progress from multiple solutions?
- 3 Is your school district relying on multiple solutions to do course planning and course management?



How to Choose the Right College, Career, and Life Readiness Solution

How do you choose the right college, career, and life readiness solution for your school or district?

It's essential to **consider your district's uniqueness** when choosing a college, career, and life readiness solution.

You need a solution that can be scaled to your district's size, flexible to ever-changing state requirements, supportive to all students, interoperable with critical systems, and easily accessible for all stakeholders.

The ideal solution also provides advanced reporting and analytics to help drive your district's journey in supporting student pathway planning and postsecondary outcomes.



How do you know what to look for in a CCLR solution that is right for your school or district?

A best-in-class college, career, and life readiness solution should provide the following:

- 1 Proven expertise in scaling and supporting different school sizes and types
- 2 Tools for students to explore various postsecondary paths
- 3 Improvements to student, teacher, counselor, and family engagement, with the student at the center
- 4 A simplified user experience with interoperable systems
- 5 Trusted, research-backed content for your students
- 6 A comprehensive solution with the ability to access all postsecondary tools in one place
- 7 A commitment to data privacy and cybersecurity to protect all student information

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #1:

Proven Expertise in Scaling Across School Sizes and Types

When implementing a solution for managing something as important as your students' futures, it's critical to select a solution with proven experience at scaling and supporting different school sizes and types.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 Experienced staff who have implemented at a school/district of your size and type
- 2 Former educators on staff who are familiar with the solution and understand the challenges and priorities of working in a similar school/district

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #2:

Tools for Student Exploration

Preparing students for their futures means providing students from elementary school through high school with the tools they need to explore various postsecondary paths.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 Tools to explore multiple pathways—college, trade school, military service, internship opportunities and apprenticeships, and careers
- 2 Opportunities to engage in real-world learning that connect what students study in the classroom to different career paths

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #3:

Targeted Engagement

A student-centric approach to college, career, and life readiness requires consistent student, counselor, and family engagement.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 Ability to easily share student postsecondary goals and progress with families
- 2 Access to a student portal for families to see student activities and engagement with their college and career planning

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #4:

Interoperability

Interoperability enables staff to access consistent and accurate student information for a complete picture of the students they support. Seamless integrations across systems in a district enable greater visibility into real-time student progress and performance.

Here's what you should look for:

- 1 Easy access to information from other key systems in the district
- 2 Student profiles that accurately integrate data from across your CCLR platform to other systems, such as your SIS or LMS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #5:

Research-Backed Quality Content

Assessments that help provide students with insight into self-discovery and career paths should be research-backed, so you can trust the quality of the content. Additionally, consider a solution that aligns with pedagogically sound models and frameworks.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 Research-backed assessments provided by a trusted industry partner
- 2 Features and capabilities that are aligned to a proven model or framework

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #6:

Comprehensive Solution

Storing student postsecondary information in many different places or having to piece data together is not a great use of educators' limited time. A comprehensive CCLR solution with the ability to have all postsecondary tools in one place will streamline workflow, enabling counselors to focus on supporting students who need it most.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 A centralized location that students, counselors, and families can access to stay up-to-date on student progress
- 2 Easy access to view and report on student course plans, college applications, progress toward completing graduation requirements, etc.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR #7:

Data Privacy and Security

The digital transformation of education means private, personal information is stored online. It's essential that the education technology vendor of your CCLR solution does not sell, store, collect, or otherwise use data beyond what is authorized by a school, guardian, or student. Likewise, the vendor should actively work to prevent cyberattacks and will ideally have a team dedicated to this endeavor.



Here's what you should look for:

- 1 A signatory of the national Student Privacy Pledge and adherence to all laws regarding data privacy and security
- 2 A single sign-on (SSO) or MFA (multifactor authentication) for access to the system





The Benefits of Naviance by PowerSchool

Why Naviance by PowerSchool?

Discover how your students, counselors, administrators, and families can benefit from Naviance by PowerSchool.

Naviance provides a perfect balance of interoperability and best-in-class functionality comprised of a comprehensive suite of features, including:

- Self-discovery assessments
- Career exploration and planning tools
- Work-based learning opportunities
- College search and application tools
- CCLR curriculum
- Course planning
- Test prep
- Reporting and analytics
- Alumni tracking



Naviance by PowerSchool keeps educators focused on what matters most—the students—by providing a simplified and centralized location for:

- 1 Helping students learn about their strengths and interests
- 2 Driving student-centered pathway planning that promotes deeper engagement
- 3 Ensuring students stay on track to graduate and reach their postsecondary goals
- 4 Keeping families engaged with full visibility into their child's progress
- 5 Connecting seamlessly with other key systems in the school district



Helping Students Learn About Their Strengths and Interests

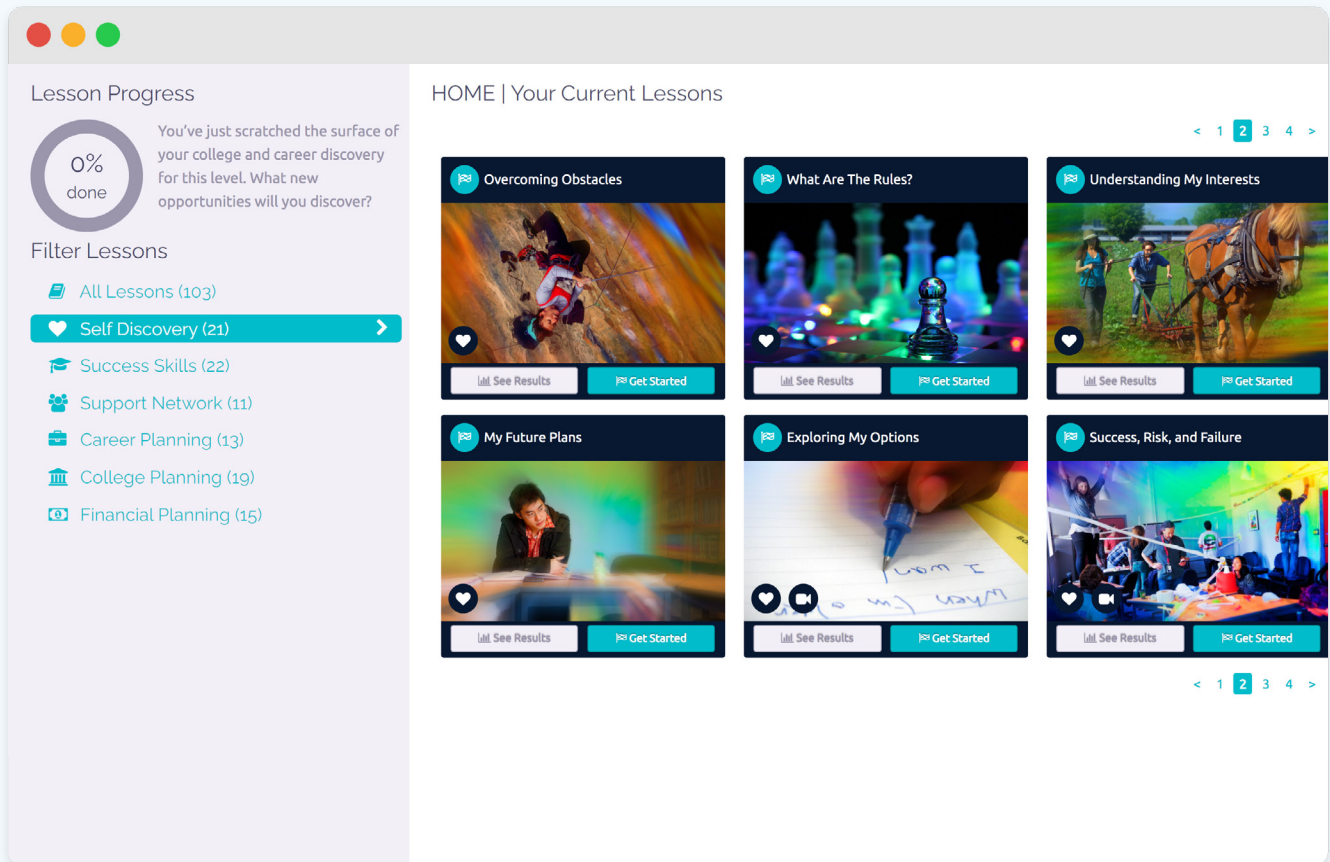
Naviance by PowerSchool is the leading college, career, and life readiness (CCLR) solution that enables schools and districts to support the whole student. It features assessments from industry leaders Gallup and AchieveWorks, as well as curriculum content aligned to ASCA and the CASEL 5.

Schools and districts can have confidence that students are engaging with research-backed content by trusted providers as they uncover their strengths and interests and develop SEL and interpersonal skills.

Naviance by PowerSchool supports all students, from elementary school through high school, in learning about their strengths and interests through:

- ✓ AchieveWorks® assessments and Gallup's Clifton StrengthsExplorer®
- ✓ College, Career, and Life Readiness Curriculum





Everett Public Schools in Washington leveraged Naviance to focus on driving SEL to help their district increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates. The district now consistently surpasses the state's graduation rate.*

- ✓ 65% increase in graduation rates
- ✓ 50% decrease in dropout rate

*www.powerschool.com/casestudy/everett-public-schools-focus-on-sel-to-increase-graduation-rates-by-65-with-naviance-by-powerschool/

Driving student-centered pathway planning that promotes deeper engagement

Naviance by PowerSchool is designed to prepare students for their futures and is aligned with the research-backed **College, Career, and Life Readiness Framework[®]**.

Students need access to opportunities to explore all the different paths that are available to reach their future goals. With a centralized location for student postsecondary information, Naviance offers schools and districts a seamless and effective way to track and monitor student progress, making it easier for students to stay on track to reach their goals.

Naviance features drive student-centered pathway planning through:

- ✓ College research and application
- ✓ Career exploration and planning
- ✓ Work-based learning opportunities
- ✓ College/military representative visits (in-person and virtual)



University of Oregon
Eugene, OR, United States
uoregon.edu

Virtual Tour | Communicate | Apply Online | Learn More

Overview | Studies | Student Life | Admissions | Costs

AVERAGE NET PRICE
\$13,666
Family Income: \$0 - \$30k
More about Cost & Aid

GRADUATION RATE
56%
4 Year | 6 Year
More about learning environment

ACCEPTANCE RATE
83%
Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you

NEXT DEADLINE
October 15
Winter 2022 Term
Regular Decision Deadline
See all deadlines



Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Maryland uses Naviance to drive college readiness.

CRJ has achieved a **100%** college acceptance rate for the past nine years and has a college completion rate that is **three times** higher than the national average for students living in low-income communities.

On average, **91%** of CRJ students enroll in college within one year of graduation (compared to 56% of students living in low-income communities nationally*) and **81%** persist into their second year of collegiate studies.

On average, **more than 36%** of CRJ's graduating classes finish a college degree, over three times the rate for students from similar backgrounds.





*www.powerschool.com/casestudy/cristo-rey-jesuit-high-school-achieves-a-100-college-acceptance-rate/

Ensuring students stay on track to graduate and reach their postsecondary goals

Naviance by PowerSchool provides the only college and career planning platform with a proven track record of driving student postsecondary outcomes aligned to district accountability metrics and goals.

Naviance offers educators tools to easily assign tasks to keep students on track toward key milestones, report on student progress, and record alumni successes. Students can set personal goals and complete multi-year course plans aligned to their strengths and postsecondary interests.

 Naviance ensures students stay on track to reach their goals through:

-  Success Planner
-  Course Planner
-  Insights Premium
-  Alumni Tracker



Graduation Plan Status: IN PROGRESS
 (Current Plan)

Credits Required: **24** | Credits In Plan: **23** | Credits Still Needed: **1**

Add / Edit Courses in Your Plan
 Add courses in order to submit, scan, or print this plan. Submit For Approval

Cluster	Major			
Select Cluster	Select Major			
REQUIREMENTS	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
23 Credits in Plan	4 Credits	13 Credits	4 Credits	2 Credits
English 4 Credits 4 Credits in Plan	English 9 1 credit	English 10 1 credit	English 11 1 credit	English 12 1 credit
Math 4 Credits	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	ESSENCE College

Additional Resources

Postsecondary Plan

You have not indicated your postsecondary plans yet.

Your Assessments

Career Cluster Finder

You have not completed this assessment.
[Take the Cluster Finder Assessment](#)

Favorite Career Clusters



Hastings Area School District in Michigan saw impactful changes after implementing Naviance Course Planner.

- ✓ Decreased student time entering course requests
- ✓ **50%** fewer schedule change requests
- ✓ **50+%** increase in family involvement in reviewing student course plans

Keeping families engaged with full visibility into their child's progress

Family engagement is a key component of driving student success. Naviance by PowerSchool provides easy access for families to have full visibility into the progress of their child. Counselors can share student course plans with parents/guardians for approval in Naviance as well as a complete progress report of student postsecondary readiness through the **Naviance Student Readiness Report**.

 Naviance helps drive family engagement through:

-  Student Readiness Report



Cam Casey
Grade 12 | Class of 2020

Postsecondary Plan
4yr college


Generated on October 01, 2021

Academic Performance

This is a high-level overview of your student's current academic performance. Use this information to discuss academic strengths and areas of opportunity with your student. Here, you can view their secondary and Postsecondary intentions as well as college assessment scores, number of completed advanced courses, and GPA.


Test scores and GPA's vary and are updated periodically by your school or district. The academic information listed in this report is based on the information uploaded to Naviance as of the generation date of this report and may not always reflect the most recent information.

Course Plan



HS Plan 2020

Postsecondary Plan



4yr college
Taken From Graduation Survey

Unweighted GPA

2.1

Weighted GPA: --

Key Test Scores

Highest Total Score

SAT	ACT	PSAT	Pre-ACT
1200	20	--	--

SAT Section Scores

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Total Score
600	550	23	27	1200



Napa Valley Unified School District's (CA) Migrant Education Program leveraged the Naviance CCLR Curriculum to get students back on track—and stay on track.

The curriculum helped students see the postsecondary options that exist for them and supported their planning to reach their goals.

In a survey conducted after students completed the CCLR program, **91% of students indicated an intent to discuss their college and career goals with their families.**

Connecting seamlessly with other key systems in the school district

Preparing students for their futures is a shared and critical goal for all schools and districts. The ability to integrate the CCLR solution with other key systems, such as the student information system (SIS) and learning management system (LMS), streamlines student data and improves staff workflow. **Most importantly, it ensures connectedness and data security throughout the district to further enable staff to personalize support and center student needs.**

 Naviance connects seamlessly with other key systems such as:

-  PowerSchool SIS
-  eSchoolPlus SIS
-  Unified Classroom® Schoology Learning





I'm excited about the Naviance and PowerSchool SIS data integration—marrying the college, career, and life readiness data with the SIS data will paint a **fuller picture of the student.**

ANNA HARDING | Data Administrator
Anne Arundel County Public Schools, MD



The Naviance Course Planner to PowerSchool SIS integration was a simple set up! I was able to **sync the student records easily** and did it by myself!

CATHY LONGSTREET | Counselor, K-12 Counseling Department Chair
Hastings Area School District, MI



PowerSchool supports over 45M students globally and more than 14K customers, including over 90 of the top 100 districts* and provides solutions in over 90 countries.

Naviance by PowerSchool supports:

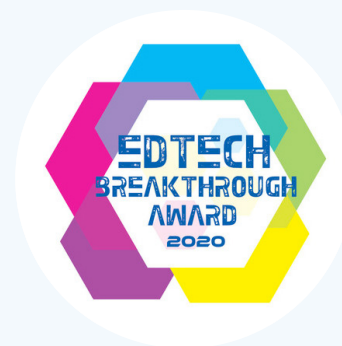
- ✓ **Over 10 million** students in middle school and high school
- ✓ **13,000** schools that have chosen Naviance as their CCLR solution
- ✓ A thriving community of over **500,000** educators
- ✓ **60,000** counselors that actively participate in the Naviance Counselor Community, an online space for higher education admissions advisors and K-12 counselors and educators to collaborate



Teaching and Learning Awards of Excellence: Best Secondary Tools for Back to School



EdTech Cool Tools Award: College Prep Solution



2020 EdTech Breakthrough Awards, Overall EdTech Company of the Year

*By student enrollment in the United States

Conclusion

Now is the time to provide your educators, students, families, and administrators with the tools they deserve to stay focused on what matters most—ensuring students are prepared for their futures.

Naviance by PowerSchool supports both staff and students in achieving the shared goal of postsecondary preparedness. Schools and districts can feel confident knowing they've set their students on the right path.





PowerSchool

Powering Brighter Futures

www.PowerSchool.com