

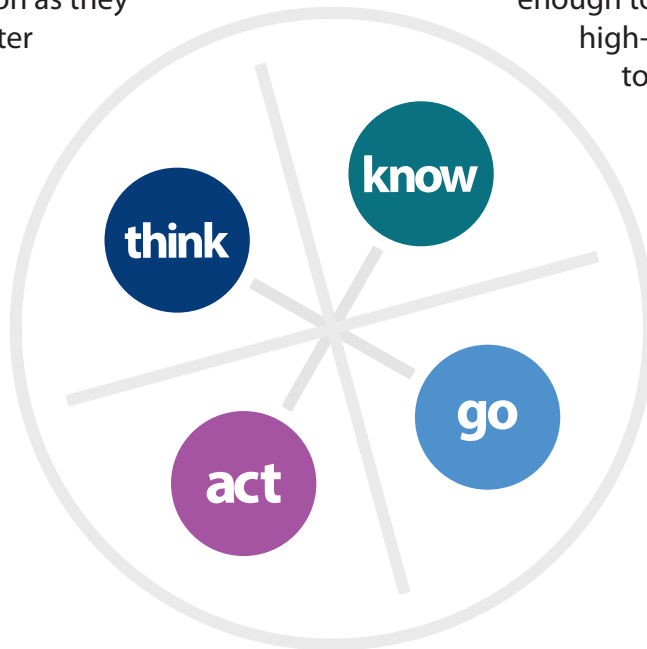
The Four Keys to College and Career Readiness (Four Keys) provides a framework and common language to use as we develop systems that support all students as they prepare for the future. Based on over a decade of research and 20 years of experience in the public education system, Dr. David T. Conley developed the Four Keys so students, families, and educators can identify and prioritize the skills that are needed to be successful after high school. In it's simplest form, we refer to the Four Keys as THINK, KNOW, ACT, and GO.

THINK: Versatile and Intentional Thinking Patterns for Problem Solving

Students need to do more than retain or apply information; they have to process and manipulate it, assemble and reassemble it, examine it, question it, look for patterns in it, organize it, and present it. They need intentional patterns of thinking to draw on as they complete work after high school.

KNOW: Understanding Structures of Knowledge and Mindsets for Learning

Students need strong foundational knowledge in core academic subjects, and they also need to have an understanding of the structure of knowledge (the big ideas and how those ideas frame the study of the subject). However, it is not enough to have students learn high-quality content. They need to understand that success at learning content is a function of effort much more than aptitude.



ACT: Skills and Techniques to Successfully Own and Manage Learning

Students need skills and techniques to take ownership and successfully manage their learning in educational and career opportunities after high school. In the absence of these critically important skills, students remain dependent learners who struggle when expected to work independently because they lack the needed tool kits.

GO: Skills and Awareness to Successfully Navigate Life Pathways

Students preparing for a career or to further their education beyond high school must navigate numerous potential pitfalls if they wish to make a successful transition. They must cope with issues ranging from correctly submitting postsecondary applications to knowing when to seek help or advocate for their best interests.

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Mapping the Four Keys

THINK

Versatile and Intentional Thinking
Patterns for Problem Solving

KNOW

Understanding Structures of Knowledge
and Mindsets for Learning



ACT

Skills and Techniques to
Successfully Own and Manage Learning

GO

Skills and Awareness to Successfully
Navigate Life Pathways

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