Welcome to California Colleges: Platform Exploration (6.1)

Goal: Students will complete guided exploration of the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform in order to become familiar with the tools and resources that are available.

Lesson Time Options
This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period.

Student Materials
— Chromebook/Laptop
— Internet Access
— Worksheet

In This Packet
This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.
— Educator Guide
— Student Worksheet

Standards
The literacy skills of Common Core can be broken down into sections – reading, writing, and speaking and listening (language skills are outside of the focus of CaliforniaColleges.edu). In the lesson, students will practice the following skills:

Common Core Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Reading for Information	CCR-Reading 1, 4, 5, 7; Reading Information 1, 4, 7
Informative Writing	CCR-Writing 2; Writing 2

21st Century Skills
Students in today's classrooms are learning not only academic skills and content, but how to be productive members of global communities. There are work habits, experiences, and skills that students need to develop to be ready for higher education and careers.

21st Century Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Critical Thinking	X
Digital Skills	X
Internet Research	X
Synthesizing Information	X

Welcome to California Colleges: Platform Exploration: Educator Guide

Goal: Students will complete guided exploration of the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform in order to become familiar with the tools and resources that are available.

Recommended Preparation
— Review the **Student Worksheet**. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.

Getting Started
— You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

Guiding Question
How can the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform help meet students' college and career needs?

Bell Work (5 minutes)
— Help students sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.

Introduction (5 minutes)
Introduce CaliforniaColleges.edu to your students. Consider using the following language:
— CaliforniaColleges.edu is the platform you will use over the next few years to do all of your college and career planning.
— In middle school, you will learn more about your career interests, plan your high school coursework, and begin thinking about the colleges and careers that interest you.
— In high school, you will use the site to search for and apply to colleges, research financial aid options, and assemble your college application materials.
— Today we are going to review the site and get familiar with the different features.

Activity (40 minutes)
1. Students will conduct a college search using the **College Search Tool**. They will learn about the ❤ and saving items to their digital portfolio called **My Plan.** Ask students what they see in the college factsheets.
   — Discussion Questions: What information is most important to know about colleges? What other ways does the platform give to search for colleges? What words in the search tool are unfamiliar?
2. Next, students try out the **Career Search Tool.** Ask students to explain the elements of the factsheets. Time permitting, ask them to compare two careers from the career search results list.
   — Discussion Questions: What skills does this career require? Do any of these skills surprise you? What are some **Related Careers**, according to the platform?
3. Now, give students a few minutes to navigate the platform on their own. Ask them to find and test out the **Major Search Tool**. Ask students to share their findings.

4. Finally, students will learn to navigate the platform by finding the **Learn about College** page. Ask for volunteers to report back what they learn.

Reflection (5-10 minutes)

— Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #07: "What is the purpose of this platform? How can you use it to help you plan your future?"*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
— Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

Welcome to California Colleges: Platform Exploration: Student Worksheet

Goal: You will complete guided exploration of the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform in order to become familiar with the tools and resources that are available.

Part I: Introduction – Bell Work
— Open the browser on your computer. This may be Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc.
— In the address bar at the top of the page type in **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
— Follow your counselor's or teacher's instructions to sign in to your account.

Part II: Activity

1. Navigate to **College** at the top of the page and hover over the text. You will see a menu. Select **College Search Tool**.

2. Type "Los Angeles" into the search bar and click **Search.** You can also use the left-hand filters to narrow your search results.

3. Scroll through the list. You can sort your list by clicking on the "Sort By" menu on the far right.

4. You will notice ♡ icons. As you use CaliforniaColleges.edu, you will see this icon when you search for colleges, careers, and majors. When you find one of these you like and want to save it, click on the ♡. It will change to ♥ and save to your **My Plan.** Try it with any one of the colleges from your search. You can delete a college from your **My Plan** by clicking on ♥ **,** and it will return to ♡.

5. Find out more about one of the colleges by clicking on the College Name. Now you are looking at the college factsheet. You will see that same heart at the top of the page: ♡ Add To College List.

6. Review all the tabs: Overview, Campus Community, Admission, Costs & Financial Aid, Degrees & Majors, Varsity Sports, Support Services.

7. Next, go to the top of the page and hover over **Career**, and then select **Career Search Tool**.

8. Type "teacher" into the first search bar and click **Search**. The **Career Search Tool** results list works just like the **College Search Tool** results list. Click on the name of a career to see the career factsheet.

9. Now, take a few minutes to navigate the platform on your own. See if you can find and use the **Major Search Tool**.

10. Finally, hover over **College** at the top of the page. Then, click on **Learn about College.** Take some time to read the page. Identify one new thing that you learned from reading this page.

Part III: Reflect
— Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **Academic Journal** section, find **prompt #07:**
 "What is the purpose of this platform? How can you use it to help you plan your future?"

— Respond to the prompt. Follow your teacher's instructions if they assign a different prompt.