

Adapt NEXT S.T.E.P. for younger students



Focus on exploration rather than decisions.

"We try to stress that it is just exploratory for them at this age."

Present NEXT S.T.E.P. as a break from the routine.

"This year I've slowed way down and done one lesson a week. When it's less frequent, the kids are more excited because it seems special — it's a change."

Include lots of social interaction.

"As much as possible, I try to keep them involved as a group because they are still so middle school oriented; they have to have peer approval. I use them a lot to help each other -- doing partnering, cooperative learning, group activities, group discussion."

Add NEXT S.T.E.P. to a high school adjustment class for freshmen.

"I incorporate NEXT S.T.E.P. into my freshmen orientation course that includes study skills, communication skills, goal setting, and other things freshmen have trouble with."

Offer suggestions, and keep it simple.

"Younger students have trouble projecting into the future and they needed more help thinking about goals for their high school years. The younger the students, the simpler the goals had to be."