



PA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Project Access Event Outline

Step 1: Find a Local School or Community Organization

Select a local school, community event, or organization where you have the chance to share resources with and educate students from underrepresented minoritized groups about the PA profession.

Tips: *Begin your search by speaking with school administrators or counselors, parents, or community leaders.

*A number of organizations can be helpful in locating local avenues: NAMME (National Association of Minority Medical Educators), health professions advisors, and state or county education departments.

Some things to ask when setting up your visit are:

- Will you be utilizing a classroom or assembly format?
- Will you be speaking to students during a break (lunch) or during a class period?
- Will your students all be in the same grade, or will it be a mix?

The goal of your visit is to provide information and inspiration to students from underrepresented minoritized groups. In particular, you'll want to give students a better idea of what PAs do and help students recognize how they can become successful members of the PA profession, and any profession they set their minds.

Contact the administrator of the school or organization:

- Provide them with information about the PA profession.
- The principal or director at your host organization should be able to coordinate the project through any administrative channels on their end.
- Example script for setting up a presentation:
 - Hello, my name is _____. I am a PA (or PA educator or PA student) who lives and works near your organization. We have a program called Project Access where PAs and PA students such as myself go into community schools to encourage Global Majority children to consider becoming a PA. I'd like to talk to someone about setting up a time for me to visit some of the students at your school. When would be a good time to talk more about this and to set something up? I can send you more information about Project Access if you would like.

2. Pre-Visit Checklist



If you are speaking to multiple groups of students, make sure you have specific times and room numbers for each group.

Ask about policies regarding questionnaires and photos. PAEA encourages all Project Access Teams to share photos from their visits with us, as well as any survey data you may collect pre/post visit, but many schools restrict photography in classrooms. Send photo release forms to the school or organization 2-3 weeks before your presentation.

Bring some “show and tell” items to engage the students. Good props and equipment include:

- Stethoscope
- Scrubs
- X-ray images
- Lab coats
- Any of the age specific materials in the Toolkit

3. Make the Presentation

The day of your visit:

- Arrive early, and familiarize yourself with the room beforehand
- Involve the audience by asking and encouraging questions
- Capture the event in photos, if possible
- Distribute and collect evaluation forms

Common questions that may be asked during your presentation include:

- How is a PA different from a nurse, nurse practitioner, or a doctor?
- How long does a PA have to go to school?
- How do you pay for school?
- How much money do you make?
- Did you ever goof off in school or get a bad grade?
- Did you always want to be a PA?
- What do PAs do?
- To become a PA, what classes should we concentrate on?
- What’s your normal workday like?
- Are you happy with your decision?

4. After the Presentation

Within one week after your presentation:

- Send the teacher and principal a thank you note
- Set up a time for interested students to visit your hospital, office, clinic, or PA program.

For ongoing impact:

- Ask your colleagues to schedule additional Project Access events.
- Create resources at your work or school for your own Project Access toolkit.
- Educate through volunteering at community health centers.



- Be a mentor, wherever you are.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to PAEA at projectaccess@PAEAonline.org.