

career connections

Career Connections is a joint initiative among the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Ohio Department of Higher Education, OhioMeansJobs and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Career Connections began in 2012 by providing a framework by which students develop a vision and realistic plan for their futures – during K-12 and beyond. Learning strategies are embedded into Ohio's New Learning Standards for English language arts, math, science and social studies. Career Connections aligns the many efforts around college and career readiness to support students in becoming productive and engaged citizens.



Career Awareness

Elementary Grades (K-5)

Students become familiar with careers through learning that connects classroom instruction to future work. Career awareness strategies show students various types of careers and stimulate interest in future work.

Career Exploration

Middle Grades (6-8)

Students explore their career interests through embedded activities. Career exploration strategies are opportunities for students to discover work environments and understand the various aspects of the workplace. Strategies include tools and instruments that help students understand and appreciate their strengths and interests. Students start plans for their future with career information and postsecondary education data. Plans include course selection and planning as well as career aspirations and goals.

Career Planning

High School (9-12)

Students continue career exploration while focusing on career planning. Activities provide advanced experiences that offer hands-on opportunities in a workplace. Career planning strategies focus on making clear links between career options and educational decisions. Students develop the skills to revisit previous exploration and planning strategies as they face career changes throughout life.

career connections FRAMEWORK

ELEMENTARY GRADES

Career Awareness (e.g.: describe careers, identify career information, interpret connections between school and future work)

- Workplace visits with career interviews
- Career connections learning strategies
- Classroom career speakers
- Introduction to Ohio career fields and pathways

MIDDLE GRADES

Career Exploration & Interests (e.g.: identify interests, develop self-awareness, determine personal motivations related to work and income)

- Advanced academic and technical education
- Student Success Plan
- Career connections learning strategies
- Workplace visits with career interviews
- Career courses
- Career mentorships
- Career research
- Service learning
- Career-technical student organizations
- OhioMeansJobs K–12
- Career pathways

HIGH SCHOOL

Career Planning, Decision-Making, & Transition (e.g.: understand career interests, engage in career-based learning experiences, explore and identify education and training options beyond high school aligned with career interests, learn how to adjust career plans according to shifts in the economy and interests)

- Advanced academic and technical education
- College Credit Plus
- Career academies
- Career connections learning strategies
- Career pathways
- Career-technical student organizations
- Industry-recognized credentials
- Student Success Plan
- Internships
- Career mentorships
- Pre-apprenticeship programs
- Part-time work
- Service learning
- Cooperative education programs
- OhioMeansJobs K–12

LIFELONG LEARNING

Career Preparation and Fulfillment (e.g.: pursue career interests, engage in career-based learning related to established goals, access and navigate resources that lead to continued growth and development, reflect on goals and adjust plans according to economic and interest changes)

- Advanced education and training programs
- Apprenticeships
- Career mentorships
- Cooperative education programs
- Economic viability
- Industry credentials
- Internships
- Professional development
- Reflective career evaluation and changes
- Service learning
- Successful work experiences
- OhioMeansJobs