

## WHAT'S CHANGING IN OHIO EDUCATION

# Career Connections

**By 2018, 63 percent of all U.S. jobs will require education and training beyond high school.**

Today, children need to see a link between what they are learning and future work. Career Connections offer practical ways for teachers and families to show students, as early as in kindergarten, the types of jobs possible for them.

### What are Career Connections?

The Ohio Department of Education is offering grade-level strategies to connect learning with real-world jobs. These examples easily blend with Ohio's New Learning Standards in reading, math, social studies and science.

All state-developed model curriculums, including career connections guidance, are free and voluntary. Teachers benefit in the reduction of time to research and develop ways to connect learning and jobs at age-appropriate levels. This gives more time for teachers to creatively develop and use them in the classroom. It also is great guidance for families to continue job conversations at home. These Grade K-12 Career Connections are one component of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation initiative.

### Examples for Grades K-5:

Students design a zoo map. They describe the climate and other needs for each zoo animal. Use animal care careers – zoologist, animal care worker, veterinarian, zoo maintenance work, botanist and landscape designer – to probe more deeply with questions. Would this person agree with your map?

### Examples for Middle School:

Students select an instruction manual that represents a career field of interest (selection provided by the teacher, contributed by student or available on the Internet). Teachers lead a class discussion where students brainstorm the types of careers they think might be associated with the manual, answering questions such as: who created it? who designed it? who produced it? what is the purpose? and who will read it? After students write their own instruction manuals, teachers will revisit the brainstorm discussion to emphasize the connection with work.

### Examples for High School:

Students will brainstorm characteristics of effective speakers and look for them as they watch selected video clips (e.g.: Ted Talks at [www.ted.com/talks](http://www.ted.com/talks)). After viewing videos of three dynamic speakers, students will talk about how communications skills are important across all types of jobs (e.g.: hospitality, IT, health). Students will include communication skills in their plans for education and training through high school and beyond.

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