

January 2014: Ohio Career Information System Update

The Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Career Information System (OCIS) has delivered reliable, up-to-date career information for more than 30 years. Throughout this time, OCIS has evolved and adapted in response to technological changes and has continued to be an engaging tool that's relevant to users.

Beginning fall 2014, OCIS will evolve once again and will become part of OhioMeansJobs. OhioMeansJobs is already the state's premiere job and résumé bank. OhioMeansJobs K-12 will offer comprehensive, career development tools, online training and resources specifically for students and teachers. Students will be able to learn more about their career interests and in-demand jobs, build résumés, search for college and training programs, create a budget based on future expenses, and develop meaningful academic and career plans for high school and beyond. OhioMeansJobs is available at no cost, which means we'll truly have a "home base" for online career exploration and planning for all Ohioans. For a sneak peek of the OhioMeansJobs K-12 concept, [click here](#).

As the transition to OhioMeansJobs progresses, the Ohio Department of Education will continue to communicate timely information. Any questions can be directed to Carolyn George at carolyn.george@education.ohio.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions for the transition from OCIS to OhioMeansJobs K-12

Why is this transition taking place?

Ohio is streamlining efforts to meet workforce development needs of adults and students. By aligning efforts across state agencies, we're eliminating redundancies and maximizing efficiencies.

When will OhioMeansJobs K-12 be available to schools?

April 2014 students will be able to register on OhioMeansJobs K-12. Students should wait until then to create their accounts to ensure access to the appropriate K-12 resources. At this time access will be limited to the Backpack (individual account). September 2014 OhioMeansJobs K-12 will officially launch with full access to the site.

Will there be a cost to use OhioMeansJobs K-12?

The new site will be available at no cost to all Ohioans.

Will schools or districts have to register or order OhioMeansJobs K-12?

No. OhioMeansJobs will be available to all schools and districts upon official launch. There will no longer be an order form or user names required of schools. Fall 2014, staff will need to request access to reports but this is optional and not required for students to begin using OhioMeansJobs. Additional information is forthcoming.

Will current portfolios transfer to OhioMeansJobs K-12?

No. Students will need to save their information outside of OCIS and then upload and save it in their OhioMeansJobs K-12 Backpack. Nothing saved in OCIS portfolio accounts will be accessible after June 30, 2014, so anything that is not saved outside of

OCIS will be deleted at the end of this school year. Additional technical assistance on carrying out these tasks is forthcoming.

Will there be Administrative Tools in OhioMeansJobs K-12 for educators?

There will be access to district and school reports through OhioMeansJobs K-12. This aspect is still in development and the specifics have not been determined at this time. More information will be available at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. Fall 2014, staff will need to request access to reports, but this is optional and not required for students to begin using OhioMeansJobs. Additional information is forthcoming.

Will there be assessments in OhioMeansJobs K-12?

Yes. The OCIS Career Cluster Inventory is expected to be available in fall 2014 as well as an abbreviated version of the O*NET Interest Profiler. Additional assessments for college and career readiness will be available at no cost; for example, practice tests for ACT, Advanced Placement, ASVAB, etc.

Will the Web address for OhioMeansJobs K-12 be the same as what is currently used to access OCIS?

No. The current Web address, www.ocis.org, will not be available beginning July 1, 2014. There will be a new Web address that schools will use to access OhioMeansJobs K-12. Additional details are forthcoming.

Will classroom curriculum developed by schools for implementing OCIS apply to OhioMeansJobs K-12?

No. Curriculum created by teachers for implementing OCIS will need updated to reflect the new system. This includes, but is not limited to, screen captures, embedded Web links, references to specific tools and other details specific to OCIS.