

# career connections

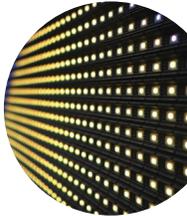
Research shows that a consistent factor in the reason for students dropping out of school is a lack of motivation due to the perceived irrelevance of school. Re-engage students by creating Career Connections in your classroom using these examples.

## How does this fit in to what I'm already teaching? Consider one of these approaches when planning your next unit.

**LEAD-IN:** Introductory activity that establishes career connections (*e.g., simulation or real-work problem based upon the academic knowledge or skill*)

**STUDENT ACTION:** A project or assignment where students apply Career Connections (*e.g., identifying a real-work problem, then researching and developing a solution using academic knowledge and skills*)

**REFLECTION:** A follow-up activity or discussion that emphasizes Career Connections (*e.g., group or individual response analyzing application of academic knowledge and skills to real-work scenarios*)



### CAREER AWARENESS:

Partner with a business or community organization to show students how what they are learning connects to different jobs.

#### SHARED READING OR READ ALOUD:

Choose a book that focuses on an aspect of work, careers or a career field.

**CAREER SPEAKER:** Invite a professional from your community who represents a company, business or industry to share information relative to their career and workplace. Tip: provide them with information ahead of time that explains what students have been learning so that they can include connections in their presentation.

**WORKPLACE VISIT:** Schedule a field trip or virtual tour of a specific company or business where students ask questions of employees to gather information on careers and various aspects of the workplace. Tip: prepare a schedule ahead of time where students learn about jobs with various required education levels and skills.

### CAREER EXPLORATION:

Use OhioMeansJobs K-12 with students to explore careers and begin thinking about their futures.

**JOB OUTLOOK:** Current demand (employment openings), projected growth and labor market trends (*e.g.: What is the future job outlook in your community and across the state?*)

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING (HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND):

Secondary and postsecondary academic, extracurricular and experiential learning activities (*e.g.: What are the education and training requirements? What types of classes or activities could you get involved in throughout middle and high school to prepare for this type of work?*)

#### CERTIFICATE AND INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS:

Documentation for meeting specific qualifications (*e.g.: Is a license or certificate needed? Are there other minimum qualifications?*)

**SKILLS:** Qualities necessary to perform work (*e.g.: What types of skills are needed? What types of technology do you use in your work?*)

**WORKING CONDITIONS:** Setting and environment of typical work (*e.g.: What are the typical working conditions?*)

**TYPICAL DUTIES:** Tasks performed most often on the job (*e.g.: What are the common tasks? What types of tools, resources and equipment do you use for your work?*)

**WAGE/SALARY/EARNINGS:** Expected income for working full-time (hourly and annually) (*e.g.: How much would you expect to be paid starting out?*)

**RELATED INFORMATION:** Pathways and occupations with similar skills, knowledge and working conditions (*e.g.: What pathways and related occupations are available within this same career field? What other resources are available for further exploration and investigation? How does this career field, pathway and occupation align with your interests, skills, abilities and future goals?*)

### CAREER PLANNING:

Use the Career Plan tool in the OhioMeansJobs K-12 Backpack to allow students to reflect on their experiences and create goals for their futures.

#### GENERAL REFLECTIVE WRITING PROMPTS FOR STUDENTS:

- What are your career interests, skills and values?
- What are your career goals?
- What courses will you take in high school to reach your goals?
- What activities will you participate in, through high school and beyond, to reach your goals?
- What education and training will you complete through high school and beyond?

#### SPECIFIC CLASSROOM REFLECTIVE PROMPTS:

- What knowledge, information and ideas did you learn through **[insert learning target]** that relate to careers you are interested in?
- Which of the skills that you used through **[insert learning target]** translate to the skills needed to be successful in the workplace; how are these skills applied in the careers that you are interested in?
- How did learning **[insert learning target]** impact your career interests? Which areas of **[insert learning target]** are you interested in exploring further and finding out more about related careers?