

Exploring Essential Careers

This lesson plan includes activities designed to help students and educators explore in-demand essential careers.

Objectives:

Explore essential careers through times of national or local crisis.

Alignment with *Each Child, Our Future*:

[Each Child, Our Future](#) is Ohio's shared plan for ensuring each student is *challenged, prepared* and *empowered* for his or her future by way of an excellent prekindergarten through grade 12 education. With the whole child at the center of the plan, three core principles, four learning domains and 10 priority strategies come together to support Ohio's students. Focusing on helping students identify paths to potential future careers, this lesson plan aligns with **Strategy 10**.

Alignment with Ohio's Social-Emotional Learning Standards:

[Ohio's Social and Emotional Learning Standards](#) support educators, parents, and caregivers as they help students develop the skills associated with social-emotional learning, including effective communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, resiliency, perseverance and teamwork — all of which are necessary for individuals to be successful in careers and postsecondary work.

This lesson plan aligns with the following social-emotional learning standards:

- Competency B: Self-Management B2: Set, monitor, adapt and evaluate goals to achieve success in school and life. This competency is incorporated through activities focused on honoring workers in these fields.
- Competency C: Social Awareness C1: Recognize, identify and empathize with the feelings and perspective of others.

Lesson Opening:

Discuss events (examples: Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, COVID-19 pandemic) that have impacted society. Discuss essential jobs during these times.

Assessment:

Discuss and differentiate essential and non-essential careers with students.

- Students will research educational requirements for each career:
 - Students should research the cost of obtaining education/credentialing;
 - Students should research funding sources available. For example, grants, scholarships and student loans.
- Have students research compensation for each career.
- Discuss challenges to each career path and coping mechanisms for these careers during demanding times such as in times of national or local crisis.
- Identify connections between K-12 curriculum and career fields (discuss prerequisite classes needed).
- Discuss how each career field impacts our day-to-day lives.

Essential Career Fields to Explore with Students:

Standard Occupation Classification	Occupation
29-1062.00	Family/General Practitioners
29-1141.00	Registered Nurses
29-1126.00	Respiratory Therapists
29-1051.00	Pharmacist
43-5031.00	Police, Fire and Ambulance Dispatchers
11-3031.00	Financial Manager
17-2199.04	Manufacturing Engineer
15-1142.00	Network & Computer Systems Architects & Admins
21-1022.00	Medical and Public Health Social Workers
53-3032.00	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer
11-9013.00	Farmers, Ranchers and Other Agricultural Managers
29-2041.00	Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
31-1014.00	Nursing Assistants
31-9097.00	Phlebotomists
41-1012.00	First-Line Sup./Managers of Non-Retail Sales Workers
47-2031.01	Construction Carpenters
47-2152.00	Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters
17-3023.00	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians

Resources:

Utilize the following resources to help students explore these essential careers:

- [Career Exploration Link](#)
- [Ohio Means Jobs K-12](#)
- [Scholarships for Funding Education](#)

Interest Approach:

- Write a letter thanking an essential worker for his or her service (class or individual letter).
 - Alternate activity: Make a video project as a class thanking an essential worker (editing software recommendation – [iMovie](#)).
- Put together an electronic collage to send to a hospital or grocery store using [Canva](#), [Befunky](#), etc. Younger students can draw pictures. Ask parents to take pictures of their students' drawings and email them to teachers.
- Have students conduct a virtual or telephone interview with a person currently working in an essential career field. Ask the essential employee why he or she choose that career. Ask about key job competencies. What challenges has the employee faced in the career during times of local or national crisis?
- Create a virtual fundraiser for someone or an organization that is highly impacted by one of these career paths (for example, raise funds to provide gas cards to grocery store clerks).
- Arrange a virtual tour for a day in the life of a firefighter, police officer or hospitalist. (Contact local fire/police department and local hospital to schedule virtual tour.)

Exploring Essential Careers: Word Search

Name: _____

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

Exploring Essential Careers

Find hidden words.

Y L A A C V B F T R O K K U U M L F A M
 B P R D T S I P A R E H T E S V J Q O H
 Y R W M N D F V C L N Y X C E P R M A Z
 V T O I D Q I H N N M R A I M O E L A T
 Y Y R N G T P W W V R J T L L M E I D E
 C W O I V U I F R V F T Q O M R N Z T B
 W Z E S R E E R A C J N O P L R I L M J
 C P Q T A W E N G I N E E R O L G J K T
 I M R R A R K X R S X M T J E A N J O K
 D Q E A S C K R C C H Y Q R S I E K D E
 E K T T M U H M U A K O H L L T B L O L
 M V T I Y K M G S V P L Y N Q N D H P E
 A N F O Y I Z F D O H P F H J E X R Q C
 R J M N X E E B U L S M R D U S C E I T
 A H F P Y Q V C B Y A E O W T S J G A R
 P E U T O P H A R M A C I S T E Q A A I
 X G A U C F R C S F T G C E S R U N F C
 I G L L S S L J K O S R P U L S Y A P A
 J C J I I Q C T R N Y U U I O M J M H L
 N K N T H G D W Z R E S P I R A T O R Y

ADMINISTRATION
 ELECTRICAL
 ENGINEER
 NURSE
 POLICE

CAREERS
 EMPLOYMENT
 ESSENTIAL
 PARAMEDIC
 RESPIRATORY

DOCTOR
 ENGINEER
 MANAGER
 PHARMACIST
 THERAPIST

Exploring Essential Careers: Building Career Pathways

Students can learn about the education and experience needed for many essential careers. Research a career pathway [here](#), and fill out the career pathway and education templates below.

BUILD A CAREER PATHWAY

Example: Patient Care Tech => Registered Nurse => Nurse Practitioner.

Provided by middle schools, high schools, employers, Ohio Tech Centers, and colleges.

Preparing students for multiple options after high school:
gainful employment and/or postsecondary study.

Ohio | Department of Education
Ohio MEANS Jobs
Ohio | Board of Regents
University System of Ohio

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: COURSES WITH SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY CREDITS



Secondary Pathway:		Postsecondary Program:									
An Example of Courses with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits											
Secondary	7										
	8										
	9										
	10										
	11										
	12										
Postsecondary	Year 1 1st Semester										
	Year 1 2nd Semester										
	Year 2 1st Semester										
	Year 2 2nd Semester										
		High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses									
		High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (Including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses									
		Required Courses									
		Recommended Electives									

Visit education.ohio.gov/CareerConnections for reference information.
 Course titles and sequences will vary between schools.

6/2015

UTILIZING THIS TOOLKIT AND ITS ALIGNMENT TO EDUCATOR STANDARDS:

Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession Standard 2: Teachers know and understand the content areas for which they have instructional responsibilities. Teachers connect content to relevant life experiences and career opportunities.

Ohio School Counselor Standard 2: Direct Services for Academic, Career and Social/Emotional Development. School counselors develop a curriculum, offer individual student planning and deliver responsive services to assist students in developing and applying knowledge, skills and mindsets for academic, career and social-emotional development.