



Ohio is Preparing Youth for High-Demand Careers Through Innovative Cross-Sector Partnerships

Schools, businesses, communities and families benefit from a healthy local economy, where:

- Students and job seekers have the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the 21st century workplace;
- Families are working in sustainable wage careers;
- Businesses can find the skilled and adaptable workers needed to compete and thrive locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Educators play a critical role in creating thriving communities, and schools across the state are invested in this effort. Still, there is more to be done.

Here's what schools are doing

- ① Recognizing that we need to prepare students for the unknown jobs of the future, not the past. These jobs will be technology-intensive and require some level of technological knowledge and skill.
- ② Cultivating lifelong learning through career exploration so students enter college and higher education with more purpose.
- ③ Aligning education strategies to local and state career readiness and workforce development efforts.
- ④ Preparing students to earn sustainable wages while pursuing higher education or advanced training



It's never too soon to start preparing students for their futures.



What K-5 educators can do:

- Cultivate curiosity in students;
- Help students identify their individual talents and interests;
- [Connect classroom instruction to future work and careers](#);
- Introduce students to Ohio career fields and pathways;
- Invite career speakers to classrooms;
- Create opportunities for students to discover and explore work environments;
- Organize field trips to local businesses.

What middle school educators can do:

- Guide career research projects;
- Have students explore careers and create backpacks on [OhioMeansJobs K-12](#);
- Teach students about the various aspects of the workplace;
- Familiarize yourself with your school's [career advising policy](#);
- Seek professional development to understand educators' role and purpose in making students aware of available career pathways;
- Create Student Success Plans through career advising;
- Connect to and consider establishing career-tech student organizations;
- Facilitate shadow-an-adult to work day;
- Organize workplace visits with career interviews.

"We partnered with Crawford Partnership for Education and Economic Development and North Central State College to create a hyper-localized website that pairs job seekers with job openings in Crawford and Wyandot Counties. Our goal is to have all high school students in Crawford County to have profiles on the website. So far, students attending two of the county's six high schools have profiles and are well on their way to finding sustainable wage work right in their hometown."

– Kevin Kimmel, superintendent,
Bucyrus City Schools

What high school educators can do:

- Explore [OhioMeansJobs](#) to understand career fields;
- Guide students through the creation and implementation of Student Success Plans;
- Guide students through earning the [OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal](#);
- Connect students to career planning resources;
- Create and expand work-based learning opportunities;
- Deepen and expand business and community partnerships;
- Support students as they plan and prepare for postsecondary education;
- Introduce students to possible career mentors;
- Empower students to earn industry-recognized credentials aligned to their career fields of interest;
- Remove barriers for students wanting to participate in credit flexibility programs;
- Offer College Credit Plus and expand dual credit programs;
- Ensure cross-institutional alignment of career-focused pathways resulting in seamless transitions for students;
- Engage [business advisory councils](#).

What postsecondary educators can do:

- Align program offerings with high-demand jobs;
- Work with secondary partners to create seamless career pathway options for students;
- Increase the percentage of students graduating with industry-recognized credentials;
- Minimize institutional barriers through expanding the opportunities for College Credit Plus, transcribed credit and statewide articulation agreements;
- Deepen and expand business and community partnerships;
- Utilize the [OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal](#) in admissions consideration.