



Guide

Providing educators and parents with tools and resources to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers.



Connect

Connecting students to careers...



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Forward

The Solano County Office of Education is committed to advancing career education and workforce development in Solano County. Toward that end, we are pleased to launch the Solano County K–12 Connect2Careers Continuum.



Solano County Superintendent of Schools

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Throughout her 33+ years as an educator in Solano County, Lisette Estrella-Henderson has demonstrated her commitment to training our students for the jobs of today and the future. She serves on the Boards of several leading organizations that share her dedication to career preparedness including Solano Economic Development Corporation and the U.C. Davis Computing, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (C-STEM) Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL).

The focus on career technical education and workforce preparation is more important today than ever, and our goal is to equip Solano County's students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Despite recent economic growth, many states are facing a looming workforce problem: American employers across various industries are struggling to find individuals who possess the knowledge and skills necessary for today's jobs, which increasingly require education beyond high school.

However, the solution starts earlier than high school. When it comes to K–12 education, it is one thing to know how to read and write—it's another thing to take what you learn and apply those skills to real-life situations. This is known as "keeper learning," which takes core academic content and teaches students how to:

- Collaborate
- Think critically
- Communicate effectively
- Problem solve creatively

Having this core set of skills enables students to apply their knowledge in the classroom and, more importantly, at their future job site.

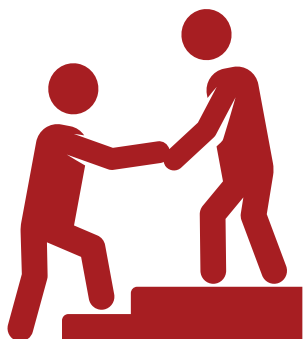
Critical to preparing young people for the jobs of today and tomorrow are the strong partnerships between educators, employers, and the community.

This guide has been created to provide educators with resources related to career exposure,

awareness, exploration, and preparation. It provides educators with "at-a-glance" lesson grids for K–12 students along with accompanying resources. Resources have also been developed to help teachers embed career development into their curriculum. These standards-aligned lessons give teachers the opportunity to help students understand the difference between a job and a career and also tie existing curriculum to career exposure.

This guide is intended to support career education and workforce development by providing educators and parents with tools to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers.

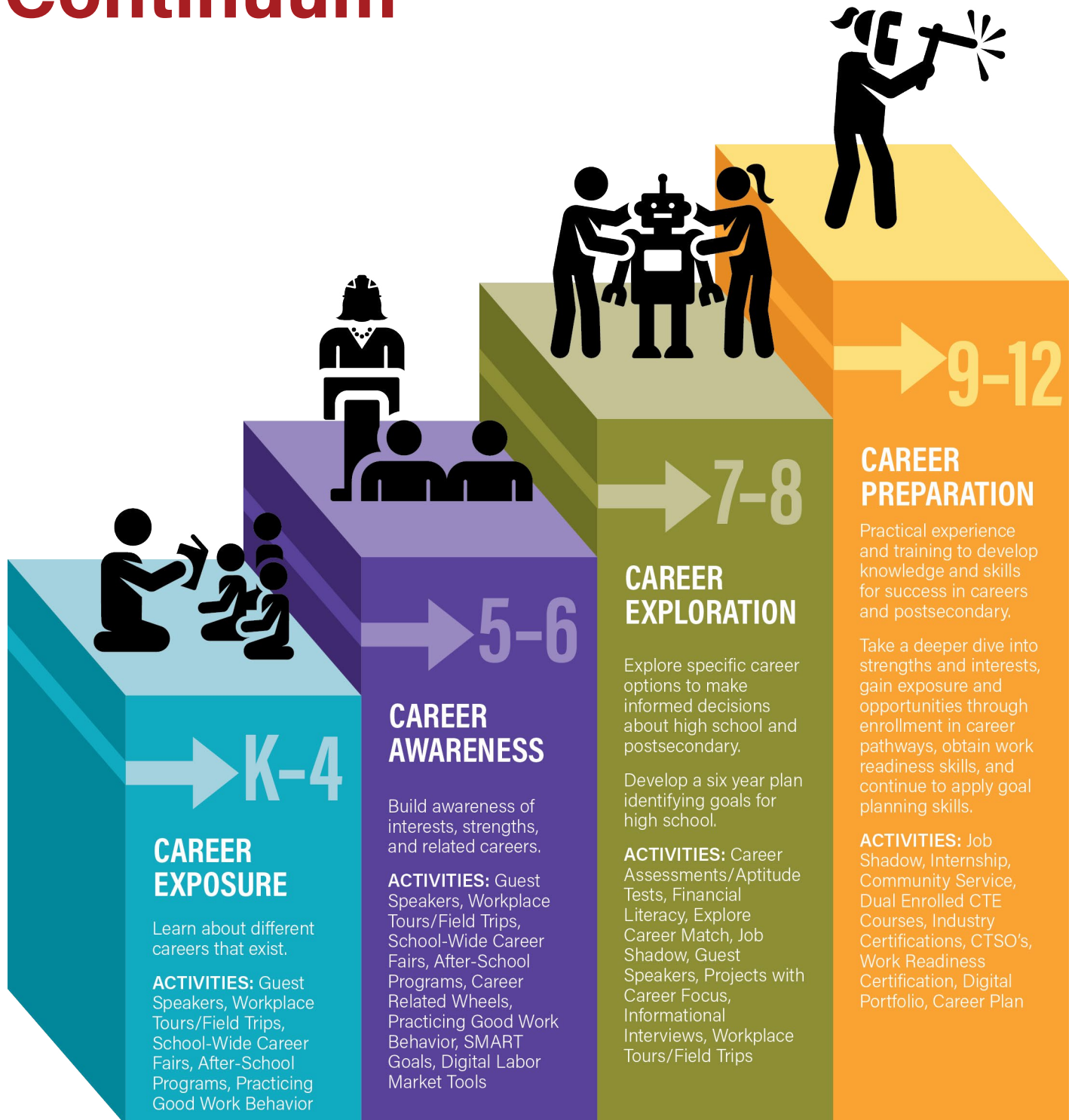
We would like to acknowledge and are grateful for the contributions and support provided by our educators throughout the county, the community, and our business partners toward the creation of the Connect2Careers Continuum. We look forward to our ongoing work with our partners and invite you to join the journey of preparing students for the local and global workforce.



The solution starts earlier than high school.

This guide has been created to provide educators with resources related to career exposure (K–4), awareness (5–6), exploration (7–8), and preparation (9–12).

K-12 Career Planning Continuum



Planning for the Future

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is committed to advancing career technical education (CTE) and career development.

The Connect2Careers guide has been created to provide users with resources related to Career Exposure, Career Awareness, Career Exploration and Career Preparation. This guide will provide educators and parents with tools to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers.

CTE is both an educational strategy and the cornerstone of the state's workforce development efforts. As an educational strategy, it inspires and facilitates learning and, unlike traditional vocational education, aims to prepare students for ongoing education, long-term careers, and citizenship, as well as entry into the workplace. With its focus on rigorous and relevant content, experiential learning, career awareness, supportive relationships, and demonstrated outcomes, CTE can provide a context for academic coursework and set the standard for the kind of challenging, engaging, student-centered instruction that is required for students of all ages to succeed. As the foundation for workforce development and economic vitality in the state, CTE responds to the needs of the economy—with regard to both industry focus and skills taught. To further address its dual purpose, CTE is designed to provide seamless pathways that bridge secondary and postsecondary education, enabling students to develop skills required in the workplace while pursuing their personal aspirations.

Career development serves students at all stages of the continuum, first to awaken in children a sense of boundless possibility,

and later to prepare older students for the multiple job changes that they will experience over the course of their working lives. Knowledge of the available options, as well as awareness of personal interests, is essential to making good choices. Students must also understand the skills needed in the workplace and how to navigate the educational system and the work world to meet their goals.

Resources have been developed to help educators embed career development into their curriculum. Solano County Office of Education, in partnership with teachers, created lessons for Kindergarten–4th grade. Four lessons were created for each grade level. These standards aligned lessons provide teachers with the opportunity to help students understand the difference between a job and a career. They also provide an opportunity to tie existing curriculum to career exposure. In addition, the California Career Resource Network provides free and low-cost career exploration and career education resources to teachers and parents for students in Grades 5–12. The lessons provide a set of age-appropriate, standards aligned, lessons for grades five through twelve and have been written so they can be used in sequence or as stand-alone lessons. They provide California educators with a key tool for implementing and incorporating critical career and college readiness knowledge and skill development into their classroom instruction.

As students move into high school they can begin to prepare for their career of choice. Districts in Solano County currently provide high school students with access to career pathways in the following industry sectors:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Arts, Media, and Entertainment
- Building and Construction Trades
- Business and Finance
- Education, Child Development, and Family Services
- Energy, Environment, and Utilities
- Engineering and Architecture
- Fashion and Interior Design
- Health Science and Medical Technology
- Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Manufacturing and Product Development
- Marketing Sales and Service
- Public Services
- Transportation



For more information on our career pathways, visit us at <https://www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness>

The Connect2Careers guide provides teachers with “at-a-glance” Lesson Grids.

This guide can also be an additional resource for districts who are currently using Naviance or other college and career readiness platforms.

The Connect2Careers guide provides teachers with “at-a-glance” Lesson Grids for kindergarten through grade twelve, along with other resources. This guide can also be an additional resource for districts who are currently using Naviance or other college and career readiness platforms.

Preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s workforce is critical. Students often do not begin to hear about possible career options until they are in high school and this can be too late. Early exposure to career awareness and providing opportunities to explore and discover interests and strengths can help students understand the importance of academic courses. It can help students see the connection between what they are learning and how it applies to the world around them.

[The Connect2Careers K-12 Career Development Continuum](#) addresses four key areas of career development: Exposure, Awareness, Exploration and Preparation. Elementary school is an appropriate place to begin career exposure. Ask any kindergartner what they want to be when they grow up and you often hear “doctor, nurse, teacher, firefighter.” These are the same careers that children have been listing for years. Providing students in grade K–4 with exposure to careers will prepare them to participate in career awareness curriculum and activities in grades five and six.

In the Middle grades students can begin exploring their strengths and interests and students can take a deeper dive into careers that match those strengths and interests. This is a time to begin researching possible pathways that may be available to them in high school. For example, a student who discovers an interest in engineering can begin to understand why math is important and how the grades they receive in high school will impact their options in post-secondary education.

A Look at Solano County



Solano County is positioned on Interstate 80 between Sacramento and San Francisco. The county has quickly emerged as a location of choice for industries seeking to move outside of the Bay Area and Silicon Valley. The county is home to large manufacturers, such as Jelly Belly, Genentech and Anheuser-Busch. Solano County is also home to several key apprenticeship programs, as well as a Solano Community College that has the distinction of offering a four-year degree in Biomanufacturing. The county is well positioned to provide our young people with the tools and resources they need to become productive citizens of the county.

Demographic

Solano County spans 906 square miles and has a population of over 453,397. It is the 20th largest county in California. Solano County has a diverse population with the resident demographic being 59.6% white, 27.3% Hispanic, 17.2% Asian-Pacific Islanders, and 14.8% Black. Solano County’s population grew by 9.52% between 2016–2021. Annual growth in the 2020 to 2025 period is forecast to average 5.0%.¹

Economic Forecast

From 2015 to 2020, employment in Solano County increased by 3.8%. The median household income is \$18.6K above the national median household income.

In Solano County, the unemployment rate improved significantly, falling from 8.7% in 2021 to 5.3% in 2022. Most major sectors gained jobs in 2022. The largest increases were observed in leisure and hospitality (17.5%), local government and education (8.8%), and construction (8.2%). The largest losses occurred in financial activities (9.1%) and Retail (7.1%). Between 2021 and 2026, the largest employment increases will occur in healthcare (+3,361 jobs), construction (+756 jobs), leisure and hospitality (+722 jobs), and manufacturing (+602 jobs).²

Educational Snapshot

Solano County is well poised to provide K–12 students with the tools and resources they need to become productive citizens, working in careers that meet their personal and financial goals. Solano County has 6 public school districts that manage nearly 71,000 students. The county has seen a decrease in the number of high school students who dropout. The number of students who dropped out in grades 9–12 dropped to 12.3% students in 2018–2019. In 2021, 18.7% hold bachelor's degrees and 8.4% have a graduate degree or higher.

Skills Required in the Workplace

There continues to be “wide gaps between the skills that businesses value and the skills most graduates actually have.” A CTE needs assessment conducted in 2006 found that the future U.S. workforce is “woefully ill-prepared” for the demands of the workplace. Projections suggest that by the year 2030, California will face a large skills gap. 30% of jobs will require “some college,” 36% will require a high school diploma, and an additional 35% of jobs will require a college degree.³ However, beyond the need for education, the workplace is seeking essential new skills that are currently being stressed in schools and colleges. Employers emphasize that such skills as professionalism, teamwork, and communication are critical for success

in the workplace. Employers also note deficiencies in these skills, as well as in key academic competencies and discipline-specific areas of knowledge, for workforce entrants coming from every education level. The CTE needs assessment corroborated these findings and placed “the ability to continue learning” near the top of the list for long-term success. Creativity and critical thinking will also be particularly important as new workers compete in a rapidly changing global economy.⁴

Exposure, Awareness, Exploration and Preparation.

Students often do not begin to hear about possible career options until they are in high school and this can be too late. Early exposure to career awareness is critical.



2,700
jobs were
created in
Solano in
2014

Most major
sectors
gained jobs
in 2014



+3,361

Healthcare

Between 2020 and 2026 the largest employment increases will occur in healthcare at 3,361 jobs.



Job increases in our community equate to economic growth as well.

+722

Leisure & Hospitality

Leisure and hospitality are expected to increase by 722 jobs.

+602

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is expected to increase by 602 jobs.

In 2021, unemployment decreased 3.4%

+756

Construction

Between 2020 and 2026, construction is expected to increase by 756 jobs.



These industry sectors represent high growth, high wage careers.

In 2022, total employment is predicted to increase by 2.0%

Growth rate to average 1%/year

Student drop out rates continue to fall

Ensuring Student Access to Career Development

The current model of embedding career planning into a Career and Technical Education course only serves the students who have the opportunity to enroll in a CTE course. To ensure that all students have access to career planning, districts should consider ways in which they can provide access to all students. One way to do this is to embed the lessons and activities into grades K–6 and into courses that all students will take in grades 7–12. This is one way districts can ensure that all students they serve will be better prepared to make informed decisions as they graduate and move on to post-secondary education, which will lead them to a career.



Implementing requires a thoughtful approach.

Teachers, parents and various partners assist in preparing school staff to support the effort.



The key to providing career education to all students is to make the lessons and activities relevant to their core academic studies.



These tools are provided for you as a roadmap to assist you with the development of your District College and Career Plan.



These tools have been adapted for use in Solano County.

Getting Started

Preparing *all* students for college *and* career readiness requires administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, community members and employers to make a commitment and play a role. There are many competing priorities in a student's educational day. The key to providing career education to all students is to make the lessons and activities relevant to their core academic studies. This does require a commitment at the district level, planning at the site level and professional development for staff. In addition, the district should consider how the college and career readiness will be planned and implemented in the context of, and alignment, with the

district Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). In this guide we draw from a number of resources and tools. These tools have been adapted for use in Solano County. These tools are provided for you as a roadmap to assist you with the development of your District College and Career Plan. Districts have the option of using the tools below to develop an implementation plan and ensure that district LCAP goals related to College and Career Readiness are addressed.

5+

Planning tools to help you get started

Follow our recommended steps to get started



Assembling the Pieces

Implementing Connect2Careers for all K–12 students requires a thoughtful approach that will most likely challenge current thinking, while preparing school staff to support the effort. Teachers, parents and various partners assist in this process by:

- Helping students deepen their knowledge of themselves.
- Improving their understanding of post-secondary options.
- Better connecting their goals to educational coursework and career interests.
- Taking part in long-term planning for life after high school.



Steps to get started

1. Assess readiness for Connect2Careers implementation ([Reflective Questions Sheet](#)). Begin with reflective questioning so that individuals and teams can consider critical conversations that need to occur.
2. Assess current career development system and offerings for gaps and overlaps.
3. Prepare and plan for Connect2Careers implementation:
 - Define your district implementation needs.
 - Set Specific, Measured, Action Orientated, Reasonable, Timed goals (SMART) and plan strategies to achieve those goals —BOTH short term and long term.
 - Outline an initial scope and sequence to deliver Connect2Careers content and activities for all grade levels.
 - Outline resources on hand and resources needed.
 - Build in an evaluative cycle.



Tools to use

[Planning Template](#)

Districts and schools, like students, are unique in multiple ways. It is important to understand the climate and readiness to implement and make a commitment.

[SMART Goals Sheet](#)

Through the planning process, districts set goals and their priority level relative to other initiatives and activities.

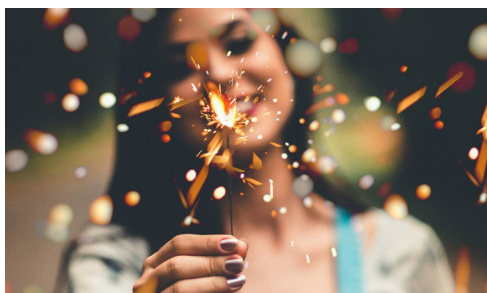
[Timeline Template](#)

Once goals are set, districts can begin coordinating actions items.

[Roles & Responsibilities Outline](#)

Working toward the necessary levels of commitment for effective career education implementation requires reflection and informed dialogues with all stakeholders. The career education implementation team should include representation from:

- Administration
- School Counseling
- Special Education
- CTE
- Core Academics
- Students
- Parents
- Business, Workforce and Community



Celebrate your Success!

- Acknowledge strengths and obstacles
- Build your brand and gain support
- Reach all stakeholders
- Celebrate successes and milestones

Implementation of Connect2Careers

Implementing and delivering career education in schools in an integrated manner requires that all school staff know and understand their roles and responsibilities.



The Role of District

- Lead the team in evaluating and planning.
- Utilize the District CTE Advisory Committee to develop a policy on career education planning.



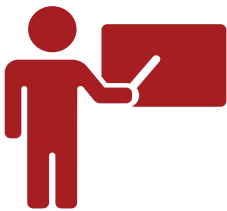
The Role of Administrators

- Work with staff to identify the best way to embed Connect2Careers lesson and activities into a course.
- Encourage all teachers to become aware of ways in which they can support career education in their subject matter.
- Encourage and monitor use of the [Connect2Careers Career Planning Continuum](#).



The Role of Counselors

- Be familiar with the Connect2Career guide and activities that students are engaged in.
- Talk to students about their interests, help them see how their interests connect to careers and post-secondary education.
- Reference and use the [Connect2Careers Career Planning Continuum](#).



The Role of Teachers

- Recognize the value of career education
- Use subject areas to assist students in developing personal/social, career and learning competencies.
- Work as a team member to plan and implement Connect2Careers content and activities essential to the overall development of students.
- Utilize the [Connect2Careers Guide for Teachers](#).
- Utilize the [Connect2Careers Career Planning Continuum](#).



The Role of Parents

- Participate in district planning meetings.
- Utilize the [Connect2Careers Guide for Parents](#).



The Role of Community Members and Employers

- Participate in planning and implementation of Connect2Careers.
- Utilize the [Connect2Careers a Guide for Your Community](#).
- Utilize the [Connect2Careers Community Partners](#).
- Reference the [Connect2Careers Industry Partnerships: Partner Benefits](#).
- Reference the [Connect2Careers Ways to Get Involved](#).
- [Sign Me Up](#)

Elementary School Career Exposure Grades K-4

Elementary school is a crucial time to begin exposing students to careers. Solano County Office of Education, in partnership with elementary teachers created lessons that provide career exposure for kindergarten—4th grade. These standards aligned lessons provide teachers with an opportunity to link career exposure to existing curriculum. In addition, there are many fun and free resources available on the Internet to help young students learn about careers. This is also an ideal time to take students on field trips to various places of employment and host guest speakers from local businesses. The goal, at this level, is to expose students to a variety of careers.

Career Exposure Kindergarten Lessons Grid

What is a Career?

The teacher will brainstorm on a Know, Want to Know, Learned (KWL) chart what students already know about careers and what they want to know about them. The teacher will read aloud a book about careers. Then students will write and draw a career choice of what they would like to be when they grow up.

Careers in Science

During their class study of plants, the teacher will introduce possible career options through videos that are connected to plants/agriculture. The teacher will have students choose a possible career and design a person with all the needed tools and clothing to represent that career. The student will produce a piece of writing to describe the career (duties and tools) and their person art work.

Health and Nutrition

During their class study of Health and Nutrition, the teacher will introduce possible career options through a sorting activity connected to careers related to the food industry focusing on farm to table. The teacher will have students use the sorting mats to explore six careers. Students will sort and match pictures to each job/career.

Review of Careers

The teacher will review the Career lesson information taught in the first 3 lessons, which could consist of looking at previous student work, new read aloud selections or revisit ones previously read, new videos of career choices, and reviewing the information on the KWL chart from lesson one. The teacher could add to the learned section of the chart if kids have new input. Then students will choose a career they would like to be now and record it on the student handout.

Career Exposure 1st Grade Lessons Grid

The Top Job

Students will listen to the read aloud story *The Top Job* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel and discuss unusual jobs in the format of "I wonder whose job it is to..." They will explore the idea that people have jobs/careers throughout our world. The world is full of jobs/careers that provide products and/or services.

Someday

Students will listen to the read aloud story *Someday* by Eileen Spinelli and discuss their future "Dream Job/Career." There will be a focus on choosing a career based on the idea of doing what you love to do.

100%
of elementary
students should
be exposed
to a variety of
careers.

Elementary school
is a crucial time for
developing career
awareness and instilling
a culture of self-
empowerment.

CAREER READINESS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS⁴

It is evident that the early exposure to career awareness and interventions beginning at the elementary level is critical to the college and career readiness of students.

Since career development involves a life-long process that begins during early childhood, there is a clear need for evidence-based college and career readiness interventions for elementary students. Since the formation of personal and career self-concepts occur at such an early age, proactive and intentional guidance to support the exploration of careers should be further explored.

As the need for postsecondary education becomes even greater, early career exposure at the elementary level will become even more critical.

Farm-to-Table

Students will learn about how food is grown, processed, and sold. During this process, students will be introduced to many Farming Science job titles. They will also make the connection that their parent's job/career provides an income which is used to purchase the foods they eat.

Buildings Around Us

Students will explore city planning and work together to create their own city. Through the process they will gain exposure to potential careers.

Career Exposure 2nd Grade Lessons Grid

Exploring Industry Sectors

Students will be introduced to industry sectors through an interest inventory. They will consider career choices and complete a job application writing activity.

Careers That Contribute to Our Environment

Students will participate in a group activity to explore a variety of occupations associated with Earth science. Students will review information and create a presentation to share with the class.

What in the World is a Geologist?

Students will explore rocks and minerals to get a better understanding of the importance of a geologist.

Who will Save our Earth?

Students will discover their role in environmental science.

Career Exposure 3rd Grade Lessons Grid

Graph It! Extreme Weather

In this lesson students will learn how to research, record and graph various weather patterns including temperature and rainfall. In addition, they will learn the description

of a meteorologist's career and make the connection to extreme weather and predicting patterns in weather as meteorologists do as part of the job.

Let's Fly! Aerospace Engineering

This lesson will teach students about Aerospace Engineering and focus on flight and how the design of a glider will improve aerodynamic function. Teams of students will explore the forces that impact flight, and design, build and test their own gliders.

"Put on Your Uniform" Game

In this lesson students will learn the description and most important components of a California Fish and Wildlife Officer's career. They will also discuss animals and their habitats; understanding how changes in an animal's habitat can cause the animal's habitat to change, the animal to move, or the animal to go extinct. They will connect the Wildlife Officer's role in conserving animals in their habitats.

Recipe for Success

In this lesson students will learn the descriptions of 5 careers and pair the career with all of the necessary "ingredients" by playing a game.

Career Exposure 4th Grade Lessons Grid

Exploring Career Clusters

Students will explore career clusters and the jobs that lie within them. Students will then identify a career that interests them. They will research the job of their choosing and answer corresponding questions.

Advertise California

Students will analyze marketing tactics in several advertisements to determine what makes an effective advertisement. They will use their knowledge of the regions of California to create a brochure that will attract visitors to that region of the state.

California Has Quakes

Students will find out if they can engineer a building that will withstand a California

earthquake. Students will watch "How to Earthquake Proof a Structure" to introduce the lesson. Students will then be put with their engineering team to plan, design and construct their earthquake proof structure.

Market Day for Entrepreneurs

Market Day is a hands-on, project-based experience in which students will plan a business, sell a product, calculate expenses and become successful entrepreneurs.

Additional Career Exposure Activities:

- Schedule Guest Speakers to share their careers with students.
- Create a school-wide Career Fair. Invite local employers to provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn more about the career.
- Take students on Career Focused Field Trips
- CAREERWISE
- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education



Online Resources

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

This website contains career profiles of occupations and descriptions. The online handbook and "Economic and Employment Projections" are located here.

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

This website provides information on a variety of possible occupations based on what one likes to do. The primary site also provides high-level labor market information.

www.nepris.com

Nepris is a subscription based online platform that connects teachers to industry experts. Nepris provides opportunities for video chats, fulfillment of requests for specific industry experts to connect with the classroom and an archive of recorded videos. Nepris is appropriate for grades K-12.

[Kids Work!](#)

This website allows students to explore through videos and games and learn about occupations in a community. The site can take kids to the "Know It All.org" which allows students to continue to explore multiple websites containing related information such as "Know It All Healthy." The "Know It All.org" site is focused on topics native to South Carolina.

www.jobshadow.com

At Job Shadow you can read real interviews from people as they talk about the jobs they do and the careers they have. If you're career hunting, trying to find out what career is right for you, don't like your current job, want to career mentor and help others, or just plain curious you can read about and explore the different career options and shadow people's jobs online.

www.juniorachievement.org

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

www.careeronestop.org

A source for career exploration, training and jobs.

www.usatoday.com/educate/careers/careers.htm

This site is dedicated to helping USA-based teachers and students excel in education. We provide free articles and resources for teachers, to be used as guides or examples to build your own K-12 lesson plans.



Upper Elementary School Career Awareness Grades 5-6

As students begin career awareness they will learn more about their interests, strengths, careers and the importance of planning. It is important to encourage young students to dream big when it comes to their future. Elementary school is also a key time to teach students that achieving their dreams requires hard work, including the pursuit of education beyond high school. The kind of post-secondary training needed depends on the career choice, so it is important to discuss the many paths that students can take after high school, including certification or license programs, two- and four-year colleges and universities, and military academies and service. It is never too early for elementary school students to hear about college and learn about the value of education. Speak to students early and often about their goals and how working hard in school will help them reach those goals.

Career and College Readiness 5th Grade Lessons Grid

Learning About Myself

Students will fill out "Career Interest Inventory-Pictorial Version." Students will be placed in six different groups based on Holland Code categories. Students will create a group poster that shows activities they enjoy doing when they are not at school that corresponds with their group name.

Name That Job

Students will participate in a group activity game to explore tasks and activities performed in a variety of occupations. Students will reflect on experience and express new knowledge orally and in writing.

What's the Market for My Labor?

Students will learn about the existence of the labor market and that it is important to understand that certain jobs are in demand and others are not. Students will explore Labor Market Information on the federal Career One-Stop website.

Studying for Careers

Students will learn effective study habits can translate into career skills which are critical for success in the workplace. For example, study habits such as time management, setting priorities, and taking responsibility are essential career skills.

Who Am I?

Students will further develop awareness of their personal interest by completing the Let's Party handout and reviewing a Holland Code and occupations handout. They will be able to match their Holland Code interests to related occupations.

Career and College Readiness 6th Grade Lessons Grid

Me and My Career

Students will be introduced to the California CareerZone website. Using the CareerZone Quick Assessment, students will explore job families and occupations that may be relevant to them.

My Dream Career

Students will use the California CareerZone to research a potential occupation and deliver a PowerPoint Presentation about the occupation they select. This lesson is designed to strengthen students' awareness of occupations they could pursue in the future.

I Have "M.I." Strengths!

Students will learn about Multiple Intelligences (MI) theory and explore the types of intelligence: Music, Visual, Language, Nature, Math, Physical, People and Self. Students will take an inventory to assess their MI strengths.

Roadmap to Success

Students will learn about SMART goal setting and develop a roadmap to plot their short- and long-term career-related goals and then use this roadmap as a personal plan of action to track their progress and celebrate their achievements.

Evaluating Websites

Students will be introduced to information literacy and learn to analyze Online content.

Additional Career Awareness Activities:

- Schedule Guest Speakers to share their careers with students.
- Take students on Career Focused Field Trips.
- Create short term summer camps to provide students with career awareness activities.
- Embed career awareness activities in a wheel and rotate students through the program during the school year.
- Play Career Bingo
- Have students create a My Career and College Dreams Collage



Online Resources

www.californiacareers.info

The California Career Resource Network (CalCRN) program in the California Department of Education provides career development information and resources to support development of the critical career self-management skills necessary for success in today's world of work. College and Career Readiness Lesson plans and resources are housed on the CalCRN website.

www.cacareerzone.org

A web-based career exploration system providing four easy to use career assessment tools and information on over 900 California occupations.

www.nepris.com (fee)

Nepris is a subscription based online platform that connects teachers to industry experts. Nepris provides opportunities for video chats, fulfillment of requests for specific industry experts to connect with the classroom and an archive of recorded videos. Nepris is appropriate for grades K-12.

roadtripnation.com (fee)

Three college graduates asked themselves "What should I do with my life?" This question led to the development of Road trip Nation. They have interviewed hundreds of people and created a rich archive of videos. There are free and "fee" based products available.

www.usa.gov/jobs-careers?source=kids

Job and Career Information. Find information about different careers.

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

This website contains career profiles of occupations and descriptions. The on-line handbook and "Economic and Employment Projections" are located [here](#).

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

"What Do You Like?" This website provides information on a variety of possible occupations based on what one likes to do. The primary site also provides high-level labor market information.

[O*Net Online](#)

This website has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers and more.

Middle Grades Career Exploration Grades 7–8

The Middle grades are a key time for taking career assessments, which commonly include interest inventories, aptitude tests, and personality quizzes. These tests can help predict good career matches based on each student's personality, skills, and values. The College and Career Readiness Lessons provide Middle grade educators with the resources to help students discover their career interests. Students should keep track of their results over time to begin developing career profiles.

After students have gathered sufficient information about their personality types, skills, and interests, they should begin exploring suggested career matches. This is also an excellent time for educators to help students carefully consider the high school coursework that will best position them for their desired careers. Students will be given the opportunity to think about how their interests intersect with a program of study that will lead to post-secondary opportunities. Educators can encourage students to take full, rigorous course loads in high school, thus keeping many options available after graduation.

Career and College Readiness 7th Grade Lessons Grid

Planning for Middle and High School

Students will use the California Career Center Web portal to assist them with middle and high school planning by creating an account and developing an initial High School Plan.

An Online Tool I Can Use

Students will be introduced to the California Career Center Web portal as a tool they can use for high school, career and college exploration and planning.

Workplace Skills

Students will be introduced to 21st Century Skills they need to develop to be successful in the workplace. Students will work in groups to develop posters related to using 21st Century Skills in the workplace.

The Next 6 Years

Students will complete a worksheet to plan their middle and high school courses. They will analyze how these courses will help them reach their initial postsecondary goal.

My Future Lifestyle

Students will use the California CareerZone Make Money Choices feature to explore the costs related to certain lifestyle choices and create a budget based on those choices. They will identify occupations with salaries that will support their budgets.

Possible Careers

Students will use the CareerZone Interest Profiler to learn about themselves; students will also explore career options including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).





Career and College Readiness 8th Grade Lessons Grid

Preparing for My Future

Students will identify both school- and community-based activities that will provide them with experiences related to their long-term career goals.

Transitioning to High School

Students will explore middle to high school transition tips on the California Career Center and develop a Transition Action Plan.

Exploring Military Career Options

Students will learn about the wide range of career options available in the military and understand how to progress in a career.

How to Succeed in Life

Students will develop an understanding of six success traits and apply them to their own lives.

Where Am I Going?

Students will use the California CareerZone to compare three occupations and then research one occupation in order to make a presentation to the class.

Safe at Work

Students will be introduced to the topics of workplace safety and workers' rights.

Additional Career Exploration Activities:

- Schedule Guest Speakers to share their careers with students.
- Take students on Career Focused Field Trips.
- Provide students with opportunities to participate in Job Shadows.
- Provide students with opportunities to identify and meet with industry professionals who can provide them information as they explore specific careers.



Research has identified middle school as a time when students can benefit the most from career exploration.

Online Resources

www.californiacareers.info

The California Career Resource Network (CalCRN) program in the California Department of Education provides career development information and resources to support development of the critical career self-management skills necessary for success in today's world of work. College and Career Readiness Lesson plans and resources are housed on the CalCRN website.

The following free career exploration and planning resources were developed using public funds and can easily be used in conjunction with California Career Resource Network tools.

CaliforniaColleges.edu

Provides information about higher education in California for students, counselors and parents. Students can explore the full range of accredited public and non-profit colleges and universities in California and nationwide.

[California Employment Development Department Labor Market Information for Job Seekers and Students](#)

Web page provides job search tools and resume tips, information about jobs that are in, or will be in, high demand. It also enables users to explore local jobs with the Occupation Profile tool.

[CareerOneStop Get My Future](#)

Provides information, tools, and links to resources to help anyone age 16 to 24. Users can explore careers, learn about and locate training or education programs and conduct a successful job search. The goal of this site is to help young adults overcome barriers and plan and achieve a path to career success.

[U. S. Department of Labor Career One Stop Toolkit](#)

Provides employment information and inspiration for job seekers, students, businesses and career professionals.

www.cacareerzone.org

A web-based career exploration system providing four easy to use career assessment tools and information on over 900 California occupations.

www.nepris.com (fee)

Nepri is a subscription based online platform that connects teachers to industry experts. Nepri provides opportunities for video chats, fulfillment of requests for specific industry experts to connect with the classroom and an archive of recorded videos. Nepri is appropriate for grades K-12.

roadtripnation.com (fee)

Three college graduates asked themselves "What should I do with my life?" This question led to the development of Road trip Nation. They have interviewed hundreds of people and created a rich archive of videos. There are free and "fee" based products available.

www.usa.gov/jobs-careers?source=kids

Job and Career Information. Find information about different careers.

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

This website contains career profiles of occupations and descriptions. The on-line handbook and "Economic and Employment Projections" are located [here](#).

[O*Net Online](#)

This website has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers and more.

High School Career Preparation Grades 9–12

Ideally, by the time students begin high school, they will be prepared to begin a program of study. A program of study is a comprehensive, structured approach for delivering academic and career and technical education to prepare students for postsecondary education and career success. Programs of study enable students to gain exposure and opportunities in a number of different career fields in order to make informed decisions for their post-secondary pursuits. Although students can make changes to their programs of study, thoughtful exploration in earlier grades should help them choose areas of interest in alignment with their goals.

High school is also a time to strengthen key learning skills and techniques because these skills transcend career areas. Teachers can scaffold these skills before students begin their post-secondary education, at which time they will be expected to begin practicing these skills independently. Students need to be able to take ownership of their learning through goal setting, persistence and self-advocacy. They also need to be able to manage their time, study effectively and use technology for educational purposes.



Solano County Career Pathways

School districts in Solano County provide students with opportunities to enroll in career pathways. Please learn more about the current offerings by visiting the school's websites.

[Armijo High School](#)
[Benicia High School](#)
[Dixon High School](#)
[Elise P. Buckingham Charter Magnet High School](#)
[Ernest Kimme Charter School](#)
[Fairfield High School](#)
[Jesse M. Bethel High School](#)
[John Finney High School](#)
[Maine Prairie](#)
[Matt Garcia Career and College Academy](#)
[Mare Island Technical Academy](#)
[Public Safety Academy](#)
[Rodriguez High School](#)
[Sem Yeto High School](#)
[Vacaville High School](#)
[Vallejo High School](#)
[Vanden High School](#)
[Will C Wood High School](#)

Career and Technical Education: Career Pathways

Career Technical Education (CTE) addresses the goals of college and career readiness through relevant and rigorous learning experiences.

High Quality Career Technical Education can engage, motivate and prepare all students for the future. The academic, technical and workplace skills offered through CTE are essential to success for all working adults. They are essential to society in addressing the challenges posed not only by a changing economy, but also by a changing world. CTE can no longer exist as a separate educational alternative; it must be woven into the very fabric of our educational delivery system.

Career Technical Education provides students with the world-class knowledge and



Students leave a pathway with industry certifications and sometimes college credit.

skills necessary to become successful and contributing members of society. CTE engages every student in contextualized, rigorous and applied hands-on educational programs developed in partnership with business and industry. It also promotes creativity and innovation and allows students to turn their passion into a paycheck. CTE's contextualized delivery model prepares all students to be college prepared and career ready. CTE, coupled with the College and Career Readiness lessons can provide students with the tools they will need to be successful as they move from high school toward their post-secondary goals.



CTE Standards:
www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/ctemcstandards.asp

CTE Standards were created in collaboration with business, industry, postsecondary and secondary education. These standards are rigorous, evidence-based, relevant and reasonable in scope.



Career and College Readiness 9th Grade Lessons Grid

What Skills Do I Need?

Students will learn about the transferable and job-specific skills needed to compete in the labor market. They will use the [California Career Zone](#) as a research tool and then create or modify their Career Action Plans.

Gaining By Giving

Students will learn how they can develop career-relevant skills by researching opportunities available at community service organizations.

Plagiarism is Stealing!

Students will learn about the importance of properly citing information and the possible consequences of plagiarizing.

Learning the Skills to Pay the Bills

Students will learn about the benefits of participating in Career Technical Education (CTE) and research to find CTE courses and/or career pathways that are available to them.

What's the Plan?

Students will compile relevant information necessary to create a High School Plan and save their information in their accounts on the California Career Center Web portal.

Matching: Interests & Careers

Students will select and research occupations based on individual interests using the [California Career Zone](#) Interest Profiler. They will utilize their research to create or modify their Career Action Plans.

Career and College Readiness 10th Grade Lessons Grid

Choosing My Lifestyle

Students will create a budget necessary to provide a desired lifestyle and identify occupations that pay enough to support that lifestyle.

What Matters to Me?

Students will use the [California Career Zone](#) Work Importance Profiler to become aware of their values as they relate to their work and personal motivations. Students will identify how their values impact their occupational choices.

What's a Hot Job?

Students will use the federal [CareerOneStop](#) to explore labor market information (LMI) factors and learn about the role LMI can play in career decision making.

I'm Ready to Work

Students will learn the key requirements of a standard job application and create a draft application to serve as a master application for future reference.

What Are My Options

Students will explore and compare several postsecondary options based on student-developed criteria. Options include apprenticeship, AmeriCorps, military service and education.

Career and College Readiness 11th Grade Lessons Grid

What Occupation Interests Me?

Students will use the [California Career Zone](#) to explore occupations related to their interests and create a PowerPoint presentation.

My Best Resume

Students will learn how to develop an effective resume and use the [California Career Zone](#) Resume Builder.

Hazards in the Workplace

Students gain a basic understanding of workplace safety and ways to reduce workplace injuries.

Due Dates, Deadlines & Decisions

Students will learn about the variety of due dates, deadlines and forms involved in the college application and financial aid process.

Ready, Set, Test!

Students will learn about three common examinations used for entrance into selected postsecondary opportunities (ACT, SAT, ASVAB). Students will learn and practice test-taking strategies which are designed to improve student performance.

College: Plan Well & Pay Less

Students will research the cost of postsecondary education and determine ways to pay for it.

Career and College Readiness 12th Grade Lessons Grid

Telling My Story

Students will develop a personal statement that can be used in the college admissions process or as the basis for application to other programs that require a personal statement.

Writing Right

Students will learn how to write effective business letters including cover letters, thank you letters and others. They will use the [California Career Zone](#) to create and save draft letters.

Etiquette? What's That?

Students will learn about business etiquette and create a visual storyboard to demonstrate that knowledge.

Learn to Reach Out

Students will research professional associations through the lens of networking and social media and conduct an informational interview.

In the Interview Hot Seat

Students will learn about commonly used interview questions and how to appropriately respond to them.

What's Next?

Students will finish creating their California Career Center Career Action Plans describing what they plan to do after high school. They will incorporate into their plans content from their previously completed Career and College Readiness Lesson Plans.

Online Resources

www.californiacareers.info

The California Career Resource Network (CalCRN) program in the California Department of Education provides career development information and resources to support development of the critical career self-management skills necessary for success in today's world of work. College and Career Readiness Lesson plans and resources are housed on the CalCRN website.

The following free career exploration and planning resources were developed using public funds and can easily be used in conjunction with California Career Resource Network tools.

The [CalJOBSSM](#) system is California's online resource to help job seekers and employers navigate the state's workforce services. The enhanced system allows users to easily search for jobs, build résumés, access career resources, find qualified candidates for employment and gather information on education and training programs.

CaliforniaColleges.edu

Provides information about higher education in California for students, counselors and parents. Students can explore the full range of accredited public and non-profit colleges and universities in California and nationwide.

[California Employment Development Department Labor Market Information for Job Seekers and Students](#)

Web page provides job search tools and resume tips, information about jobs that are in, or will be in, high demand. It also enables users to explore local jobs with the Occupation Profile tool.

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Provides information, tools and links to resources to help anyone age 16 to 24. Users can explore careers, learn about and locate training or education programs and conduct a successful job search. The goal of this site is to help young adults overcome barriers and plan and achieve a path to career success.

[My Next Move](#)

My Next move allows the user to browse over 900 careers and help with making career choices.

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Provides employment information and inspiration for job seekers, students, businesses and career professionals.

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www.usa.gov/jobs-careers?source=kids

Job and Career Information. Find information about different careers.

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

This website contains career profiles of occupations and descriptions. The on-line handbook and "Economic and Employment Projections" are located [here](#).

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

"What Do You Like?" This website provides information on a variety of possible occupations based on what one likes to do. Also provides high-level labor market information.

[O*Net Online](#)

This website has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers and more.

Additional Career Preparation Activities:

- Schedule Guest Speakers to share their careers with students
- Take students on Career Focused Fieldtrips
- Provide students with opportunities to participate in Job Shadows
- Provide students with opportunities to identify and meet with industry professionals who can share information on specific careers
- Internships
- Work Experience

Resources

- [Elements of HQCTE Rubric](#)
- [Career Technical Education Program of Study](#)
- Solano County Office of Education College and Career Readiness [Work Readiness Certification](#)



Explore interests and create a better future through hands-on, real world learning.

Student Leadership Organizations

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are key components to strong CTE programs. CTSOs integrate into CTE programs and courses and extend teaching and learning through innovative programs, business and community partnerships and leadership experiences at the school, state and national levels.

Learning that Works

CTSOs provide relevant, engaging programs that improve student achievement and reduce dropout rates.

CTSOs engage the community and local businesses to help students understand global competition.

CTSO programs, such as industry based competitive events and community service, provide students with the opportunity to develop 21st Century Skills.



California Career and Technical Student Organizations

DECA: An Association of Marketing Students

California DECA is a student organization whose program of leadership and personal development is designed specifically for students interested in marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

FCCLA

FHA-HERO is the pre-professional organization for Home Economics Careers and Technology education students in grades 6–12.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA is a student organization for student leaders preparing for careers in business.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

FFA is a national student organization for agriculture education students in grades 9–12.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

A student organization whose mission is to promote career opportunities in health care and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a national student organization for industrial and technical education programs helping each student excel.





Moving Forward

The role of the education system is to prepare all students for College and Career. The goal is for all students to find careers that are personally fulfilling and provide them with a sustainable living wage. The days in which a high school diploma was all a person needed to be successful are behind us. In 2009, President Barack Obama laid out a path to restoring America's international leadership in postsecondary attainment: "...tonight I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training. This can be community college, a four-year school, vocational training, or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma." Tomorrow's jobs will require some form of post-secondary education, but not necessarily a four-year degree. There are many paths to personal fulfillment and a sustainable wage.

The Pathways to Prosperity Report, published by the Harvard Graduate School of Education found that students were being sent off to college with little or no idea as to the careers they were interested in studying. This creates unnecessary student debt and lost time. A high school student who has been provided with the necessary tools to identify their career interest, or in some cases figure out what they are not interested in, will be better prepared to make the right choices for their post-secondary education.⁵

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This section will highlight the different options that a student has as they move beyond high school and into the world of career preparation.

[The California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association](#) provides a "one-stop" shop for students interested in learning about 45 different apprenticeship programs. Solano County is home to apprenticeship programs in Carpentry, Ironwork, Installers, Plumbing and Pipe Fitting, and Sheet Metal.

[Solano Adult Education Consortium](#) The Solano Adult Education Consortium (SAEC) is a partnership among adult education providers and other community organizations in Solano County that give adults opportunities to learn basic skills and obtain certificates to successfully transition into a career or postsecondary education. The members include Benicia Unified School District, Fairfield-Suisun Adult School, Vacaville Adult School, Vallejo Adult School, Solano County Office of Education and Solano Community College.

The Solano Adult Education Consortium provides information related to Solano County adult education providers. Students, and their parents, can participate in programs related to: Career Education, High School Completion, English as a Second Language, Adults with Disabilities, and Parent Education.



Apprenticeships and Trades

Apprenticeship and Trades programs offer students the opportunity to learn hands-on, on-the-job training to become highly paid, skilled workers, with potential for long-term stability, and growth into management positions. Apprenticeships offer students an opportunity to earn, while they learn. Upon completion of an apprenticeship program a student will obtain journeyman status with zero education debt. In 2021 the average wage of a tradesman was \$2,060.00, with the top 10% making \$71,890. Students can research trades and salaries [here](#).

An apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training (OJT) and related classroom instruction under the supervision of a journey-level person or trade professional in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation.

Most apprenticeships are open to anyone age 16 or older. However, individuals must usually be age 18 to be an apprentice in hazardous occupations. Students must show the sponsor that they have the ability, aptitude and education to be successful. They generally complete an application form, provide copies of their high school transcripts, proof of age and high school diploma or general equivalency certificate "GED." Some apprenticeship programs may require that students achieved a passing grade in algebra.





High school students can receive college credit through CTE courses that are articulated.

SCC now offers a B.S. in Biomanufacturing

Many of the high school career pathways are aligned with Solano Community College through the college's CTE Transitions Program.



Find out more at www.solano.edu

California Community Colleges

There are 116 community colleges located in California. Students can search the many different [programs](#) offered by the community college system. The community college can be a wonderful place for students to start their career preparation. Many community colleges offer certificate programs that allow students to acquire a specific skill set and move directly into their career of choice. Students can also begin their college journey at a community college and transfer to the university of their choice.

Solano County is home to Solano Community College. Many of the career pathways offered at Solano County high schools are aligned or articulated to the community college through Solano Community College's [CTE Transitions Program](#). Alignment means that the high school and college career pathways are similar, but do not provide the high school student with college credit. An articulated course means that the high school teacher and community college faculty have an approved articulation agreement in place. The high school student is eligible to receive college credit upon passing an exam. For example, the Biotechnology pathway offered at Vacaville and Vallejo High Schools articulate to Solano Community College's Biotech 160 course. Solano Community College now offers a [Bachelor of Science in Biomanufacturing](#). This recent development is a win/win for high school students in Solano County.

The [Solano County Office of Education College and Career Readiness](#) Department partnered with Solano County schools, Solano Community College, ConnectED and Career

Ladders to create career pathway maps. These maps can be used to show students, parents and counselors the horizontal alignment of high school and community college pathways related to these two industry sectors.

California's University System

High School students have a wide range of options available to them in California. California is fortunate to be home to a comprehensive state-run college system that includes the University of California, California State University and Community College.

[University of California](#)

There are currently nine University of California campuses in California. Students can browse programs offered at each [campus](#). They can then dive deeper by visiting the school's websites. Students should be encouraged to visit the campuses that offer programs they find that match their career interest. Learn more about the majors currently offered at the University of California [here](#).

[California State University's](#)

There are twenty-three California State Universities located in California. Students can explore the [programs](#) offered at these campuses and visit the schools that align with their career interest.

[Workforce Development Board](#)

The Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Solano County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides employment-related services for job seekers and businesses in Solano County.

Endnotes

1. US Census: Solano County CA. Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/solanocountycalifornia>

2. Labor Market Forecast: 2022. Retrieved from: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e_sUswqi1EoYI15i2MbVHjz9pMGA5eZ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116361561719454772211&rtpof=true&sd=true

3. Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020. Georgetown University. Retrieved from: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/recovery-job-growth-and-education-requirements-through-2020/>

4. The Conference Board. (2006). Are They Really Ready to Work? Employers' Perspectives on the Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century Workforce. New York, NY.

5. Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting The Challenge Of Preparing Young Americans For The 21st Century, Harvard Graduate School of Education. 2011, February Retrieved from: https://www.gse.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011-1.pdf