



ALASKA

State Highlight

Alaska College and Career Advising Consortium (ACAC). The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education provides training opportunities to educators at the annual [ACAC Training](#). This is designed to equip individuals with resources to help them help students prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education and career training programs.



VISION



AlaskaCAN. The [Alaska Postsecondary Access & Completion Network \(AlaskaCAN\)](#) is a nonprofit that sets a vision for a state economy that is driven by a trained and educated workforce. The organization provides lists of career exploration resources and pursues a mission of increasing the number of Alaskans who follow a postsecondary workforce development pathway.

Alaska has yet to define career exploration in public-facing resources.



POLICY



Cross-Agency CTE Plan. In 2018, a cross-agency partnership made up of the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska updated the [Alaska Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Plan](#) to encourage continued advancement and innovation for the state’s CTE system. The addendum serves as an advocacy strategy and implementation tool for educators and other champions of CTE within the state.

Alaska has yet to establish career exploration requirements or formally include middle school career exploration in state or federal accountability systems.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Resource Sharing. Alaska provides [resources](#) for stakeholders ranging from the classroom, district, and state levels. For example, through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the state provides schools with the Alaska Career Information System, a comprehensive Personal Learning & Career Plan resource, and several resources to support schools in implementing career exploration in the classroom and personal learning and career plans.





ALASKA • VISION

Category	Status	Description
Leadership Does the state leadership include career exploration as a valued or prioritized component of students' middle school experience?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Through a collaborative effort between the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska, the state established the AK Career and Technical Education Plan in 2010, which places a priority on ensuring that every student has a personal learning and career plan. The state also created a crosswalk to connect this priority to other workforce and development state plans.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The state does not officially define career exploration; however, the Perkins V State Plan does define student career development.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	AK's landscape of organizations that are helping progress middle school students' career exploration opportunities includes Alaska College Access Network , which provides lists of career exploration resources and pursues a mission of increasing the number of Alaskans who follow a postsecondary workforce development pathway, and Alaska ACTE , which is a professional development organization advocating for the expansion of students' access to quality CTE courses.



ALASKA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Although there is no policy language that establishes standard practice, within the state's Career and Technical Education Plan , districts are encouraged to support the creation of students' personal learning and career plans, beginning in grade 6, for academic and postsecondary planning. In a follow-up to this plan, a workgroup was convened in 2018 to publish an addendum to the original. The addendum serves as an advocacy, strategy, and implementation tool for educators and other champions of CTE within the state.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The state does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, middle school career exploration activities are formally included in AK's Perkins Plan .
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The state does not require middle school students to complete career exploration activities.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	AK does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



ALASKA • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
Funding Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	AK's Board of Education and Early Development allows Perkins V funds to be used as early as 7th grade by <u>defining</u> "vocational education" to include grades 7 through 12. Through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the state provides schools with the <u>Alaska Career Information System</u> , a comprehensive Personal Learning & Career Plan resource.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The AK Commission on Postsecondary Education provides training opportunities to educators at the annual <u>Alaska College and Career Advising Consortium</u> .
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The state provides several resources to support schools in implementing career exploration in the <u>classroom</u> and personal learning and career plans. AK CTE has a compilation of <u>PLCP resources</u> , including an <u>implementation framework</u> .
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Although there are no formal state-level data collection practices related to middle school career exploration, through the <u>AK Career Information System</u> , schools and districts are able to view data usage of the system and create reports based on the contents of students' portfolios.
CTSOs Does the state support student participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	AK does not support middle school chapters of CTSOs.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The <u>Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)</u> Career Explorations opportunity is organized to provide project exploration to Alaska middle school students who have yet to enter high school (i.e., students currently in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade). This experience promotes education and careers focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).