

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

State Highlight

Middle School Expansion Grant. DC's Middle School Expansion Grant awards funding to schools to build out middle school CTE programs. Fifteen percent of DC's Perkins V funds were set aside to spur districtwide innovation, including summer coding camps to promote CTE programs with rising 9th graders, create a districtwide competitive grant process to help recruit new secondary charter schools and spur middle school innovations for CTE programs throughout DC.



VISION



State Guidance. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) places parameters around career exploration courses to include a self-assessment, career research, soft skill development, education planning, and work-based learning.

Middle School Conference. OSSE hosts an annual Middle School Conference, which engages middle school students in investigating their career interests.

DC has yet to codify the definition of career exploration or coordinate across agencies on career exploration.

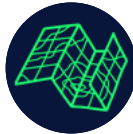


POLICY



Funding for Career Exploration. To access the CTE Middle School Expansion Grant and Perkins V funds, local applicants must describe how the providers will include career exploration and career development coursework, activities, or services. In level 1 CTE courses, schools are required to offer work-based learning course offerings, including career exploration.

DC has yet to connect career exploration requirements to high school expectations or formally include middle school career exploration in state or federal accountability systems.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). CTSOs are extracurricular groups for students enrolled in CTE programming to participate in industry-specialized lessons, leadership training, community service, and competitions. DC has middle school chapters in TSA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA. Through Perkins V funds, OSSE provides support and resources for the implementation, maintenance, and expansion of CTSO participation, including conference and competition fees.





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • 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	Within the state's <u>Perkins V Plan</u> , the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is committed to the expansion of middle school courses that introduce students to college and career options, provide access to appropriate industry credentials, create opportunities to earn high school credit, and educate students about various programs of study at local high schools. OSSE hosts an annual <u>Middle School Conference</u> , which provides a broad informative approach towards engaging middle school students in investigating their career interests. Students identify their career fields of interest and have the opportunity to interact with young professionals in the field.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	OSSE does place parameters around career exploration courses, such that they should include a self-assessment, career research, soft skill development, education planning, and work-based learning.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	DC does not have any organizations advocating for career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	To access the CTE Middle School Expansion Grant and Perkins V funds, local applicants must <u>describe</u> how the providers will include career exploration and career development coursework, activities, or services. In level 1 CTE courses, schools are required to offer work-based learning course offerings, including career exploration.
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 <u>DC's Perkins V Plan</u> .
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Middle schools that receive funding from OSSE via the CTE Middle School Expansion Grant must have a CTE course and work-based learning programming.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	DC does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
<p>Funding</p> <p>Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?</p>		<p>OSSE supports 23 subgrantees through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. The funding supports individual and group enrichment activities designed to support youth in obtaining their postsecondary goals. The Middle School Expansion Grant awards funding to schools to build out middle school CTE programs. Fifteen percent of DC's Perkins V funds were set aside to spur statewide innovation and to create a statewide competitive grant process to help recruit new secondary charter schools and spur middle school innovations for CTE programs throughout DC.</p>
<p>Professional Development</p> <p>Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?</p>		<p>The OSSE CTE team hosts an annual DC CTE professional development conference, which is mostly geared toward CTE instructors, administrators, and counselors.</p>
<p>Material Supports</p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>OSSE provides several resources to help educators meet career exploration requirements of CTE courses, such as Career Coach DC and Pathful Connect, and link to several national organizations that support middle school CTE and career exploration.</p>
<p>Data Collection</p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>LEAs receiving funds from the CTE MS Expansion Grant are required to report on the CTE courses, career exploration programming, and work-based learning opportunities facilitated throughout the year and the number of students who participated.</p>
<p>CTSOs</p> <p>Does the state support student participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>DC has middle chapters in TSA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA. Through Perkins V funds, OSSE provides support and resources for the implementation, maintenance, and expansion of CTSO participation, including conference and competition fees.</p>
<p>Organizations</p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>The College Gurl Foundation (CGF), in partnership with the DC's Office of Youth Programs, hosts an innovative Middle School Exploration Program for DC residents ages 9-13. The Chart Academy is a non-profit organization that provides training programs and resources. The organization hosts a middle school career exploration program. DC ED Fund supports experiential curriculum design through their Cornerstone program.</p>