



FLORIDA



State Highlight

Career Readiness Education and Needs Assessment. To support practitioners in implementing the Career Readiness Education Framework, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) developed the Career Readiness Education and Needs Assessment to provide practitioners with an overview of career-readiness education and a tool to assess their career-readiness services.



VISION



Senate Bill 240. The recent passage of Senate Bill 240 expanded promotion requirements from middle to high school, requiring middle school students to use the state’s online planning and work-based learning coordination system. Additionally, the required career exploration course must teach students how to access and update the plan at least annually.

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



POLICY



College and Career Planning Course. In Florida Statutes, the state requires that 6, 7, and 8th-grade students take one college and career planning course and complete a personalized academic and career plan using Florida's online career planning, which will inform the student's high school graduation requirements and work-based learning coordination system. The FLDOE also establishes Student Performance Standards for the middle school course Fundamentals of Careers in Education and Career Planning.

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



INFRASTRUCTURE



Xello. The FLDOE provides a platform option to districts called Xello, a career exploration tool provided to school districts as an option to use in the middle school career and education planning course. Starting in Fall 2023, Xello is Florida's official K-12 career planning and work-based learning coordination tool. Florida's state-supported workforce development activities include middle school career exploratory courses, allowing students to understand the value of a CTE education and explore careers in 17 career clusters.

Florida has yet to include middle school career exploration into data collection processes or provide dynamic training opportunities to staff related to middle school career exploration.





FLORIDA • 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	The Florida Legislature established requirements for middle school career exploration by <u>statute</u> as a component of promotion from middle school to high school. This statute was recently updated to require students to use the state's Career Planning and Work-Based Learning System, using software vendor <u>Xello</u> . Additionally, <u>recent legislation</u> requires the FLDOE to convene a workgroup to identify best practices in CTE pathways from middle school to high school.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Florida's <u>Career Readiness Education Framework and Needs Assessment</u> defines 'career exploration' as gaining a deeper understanding of oneself, career options, and postsecondary opportunities through guided but unrestricted access to relevant career information, data, and experiences.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	FL does not have any organizations that are advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape.



FLORIDA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?		FLDOE has <u>Student Performance Standards</u> for the middle school course Fundamentals of Careers in Education and Career Planning. In Florida Statutes, the state <u>requires</u> that students in grades 6-8 take one college and career planning course, complete a personalized academic and career plan, and use Florida's online career planning, which will inform the student's high school graduation requirements and work-based learning coordination system. According to the State Board of Education rule, school counselors' certification <u>must</u> include college and career planning training for pre-K, elementary, and secondary students, including college and career exploration.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?		The state does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, middle school career exploration activities are formally included in <u>FL's Perkins V Plan</u> .
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?		In Florida Statutes, the state <u>requires</u> that students in grades 6-8 take one college and career planning course, complete a personalized academic and career plan, and use Florida's online career planning, which will inform the student's high school graduation requirements and work-based learning coordination system.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?		Florida does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



FLORIDA • 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	FLDOE <u>provides</u> a platform option to districts called Xello, a career exploration tool for school districts to use in the middle school career and education planning course. Some <u>Perkins V funding</u> is allocated to support CTSOs in the state. FLDOE uses leadership funds to provide technical assistance and leadership for secondary and postsecondary education programs on an ongoing basis, which includes developing counseling and career preparation materials.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Florida does not support training or professional development opportunities for school counselors and other school staff in career exploration.
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	FLDOE has a <u>Career Readiness Education Framework and Needs Assessment</u> with an overview of career-readiness education and allows educators to assess their delivery of educational experiences. FLDOE provides a <u>presentation, webinar</u> , and a <u>career and education guide</u> that assesses students' interests and provides career clusters to explore. <u>Guidance</u> is provided to superintendents on the available platforms for career planning and advising for district use.
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	FLDOE <u>collects</u> course enrollment data for middle school courses focused on career planning.
CTSOs Does the state support student participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Florida has <u>middle school chapters</u> in FBLA, FCCLA, HOSA, and FFA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The <u>Immokalee Foundation's</u> Career Exploration program begins in middle school for Immokalee youth. <u>Latinos In Action</u> bridges the graduation and opportunity gap for Latino students. Broward County Public Schools launched <u>Reimagining Middle Grades</u> , a program that provided more exposure to project-based learning experiences and expanded connections to extracurriculars. <u>Junior Achievement of Florida Foundation</u> allows students to develop a profile to determine their areas of interest and create plans for the future.