

# GEORGIA

## State Highlight

**College and Career Ready Performance Index.** The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) is Georgia's accountability mechanism that now contains a college and career readiness indicator. The "Beyond the Core" metric measures the percentage of students earning a passing score in fine arts, world language, physical education/health, or career exploratory.



### VISION



**Gubernatorial Leadership.** Governor Kemp declared February Career and Technical Education Month in 2023, a proclamation that celebrates the work of CTSOs in Georgia.

Georgia has yet to define career exploration or state career exploration as an official priority.



### POLICY



**Connection Course.** The Georgia State Board of Education (GA SBE) rule allows schools to offer a connection course that covers career exploration to develop an awareness of broad career fields, learn interests and aptitudes related to educational and career alternatives, and build an understanding of the academic prerequisites for postsecondary education and future careers.

**Legislated Career Counseling.** Within Georgia Code, students in grades 6-8 are required to be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness, career interest, and career demand inventories, and information to assist them in evaluating their academic skills, career-oriented aptitudes, and career interests.



### INFRASTRUCTURE



**State Funds for Career Exposure and Exploration.** Georgia leverages Perkins V funds to support career awareness and career exploration activities associated with Georgia Department of Education-approved programs. The state has also financially supported CTSOs through ESSER funds, and several CTSOs have middle school chapters, including HOSA, FBLA, TSA, FFA, and FIRST Robotics.

Georgia has yet to provide dynamic training opportunities to staff related to middle school career exploration.









# GEORGIA • VISION

Category	Status	Description
<b>Leadership</b> Does the state leadership include career exploration as a valued or prioritized component of students' middle school experience?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Governor Kemp declared February Career and Technical Education Month in 2023. The proclamation celebrates the work of CTSOs in Georgia. However, there have not been any public statements prioritizing middle school career exploration.
<b>Career Exploration Definition</b> Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	GA defines career-related concepts, such as work-based learning, but does not have a specific definition for middle school career exploration.
<b>Advocacy</b> Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	GA does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape.



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<p><b>Standards</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>The GA SBE rule allows schools to offer a connection course that covers career exploration, but the course is not required. GADOE maintains standards for various approved Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Exploratory Programs, including Middle School Career Development. The GA Professional Standards Commission organization facilitates the certification for school counselors, which includes a requirement to pass state assessments. One of the objectives contained in the School Counseling Assessment is that counselors understand the purposes and theories and can apply career development and planning processes for students at each age level. Within <u>Georgia Code</u>, students in middle school shall be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness, career interest and career demand inventories, and information to assist them in evaluating their academic skills, career-oriented aptitudes, and career interests. Schools are required to review students' Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs) annually and revise them, if appropriate, upon approval by the student and their parent or guardian with guidance from the school counselor or teacher advisor.</p>
<p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p>Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?</p>		<p>The <u>College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)</u> is Georgia's accountability mechanism that was redesigned as part of the reauthorization of ESSA. The index contains a college and career readiness indicator, which includes a "Beyond the Core" metric that measures the percentage of students earning a passing score in fine arts, world language, physical education/health, or career exploratory. A high school's <u>CCRPI score</u> on college and career readiness indicators can be affected by students who take a Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) foundation course in middle school.</p>
<p><b>Student Requirements</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?</p>		<p>Before the end of the 2nd semester of the 8th grade, students are <u>required</u> to develop an individual graduation plan based on their academic skills, career-oriented aptitudes, and career interests in consultation with their parents, guardians, or individuals appointed by the parents or guardians to serve as their designee. A student's graduation plan shall be considered when scheduling a student's courses in ninth grade.</p>
<p><b>Incentives</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>Within a <u>guidance document</u> for implementing CTAE high school courses in middle school, the GADOE states that middle schools can earn "Exceeding the Bar" points towards their CCPRI for providing opportunities for students enrolled in middle school to earn high school units or credits.</p>



# GEORGIA • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
<b>Funding</b> Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	GA leverages <a href="#">Perkins V funds</a> to support career awareness and exploration activities for grades 5-8 directly associated with approved Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education programs. State <a href="#">funds</a> are used for approved career connection courses for grades 6 through 8. The state also appropriated some <a href="#">ESSER</a> dollars to support Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education, including \$200,000 for CTSOs.
<b>Professional Development</b> Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	GA does not support training or professional development opportunities for school counselors and other school staff in career exploration.
<b>Material Supports</b> Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	To support the mandated career readiness activities for students in grades 6-12, the GADOE developed a <a href="#">handbook</a> for counselors of career development lessons divided by grade level. Middle school counselors are also provided a list of resources <a href="#">linked</a> on the department's website. The department offers CTAE instruction and assessment <a href="#">guidance</a> to school districts offering high school career cluster foundation courses for high school credit in middle school.
<b>Data Collection</b> Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The <a href="#">College and Career Ready Performance Index Dashboard</a> captures a Readiness metric, which measures whether students are participating in activities preparing them for and demonstrating readiness for the next level, college, or career. Users can filter performance data by district and student population.
<b>CTSOs</b> Does the state support student participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	GA has financially supported CTSOs through <a href="#">ESSER</a> funds, and several CTSOs have middle school chapters, including HOSA, FBLA, TSA, FFA, and FIRST Robotics.
<b>Organizations</b> Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	No organizations in Georgia rose to recognition for the results of this landscape scan.