



LOUISIANA

★ State Highlight

State Organization Support of Career Exploration. Louisiana has a variety of organizations within the state that partner with districts, schools, or their Department of Education to deliver career exploration experiences to middle school students. Examples include [Community Works](#), [Junior Achievement of North Louisiana](#), [Quest for Success](#), and [Career Compass](#).



VISION



State Definition. Louisiana defines career exploration in statute as “activities for students in grades 6-8 that create linkages between what a student does in school and what he wants to achieve in life.”

Perkins V State Plan. The [Perkins V Plan](#) recognizes the importance of a broad spectrum of work-based learning programs to foster career exploration, the development of competencies highly valued in the economy, and opportunities to earn to learn. These programs may include registered apprenticeships, internships, co-ops, project-based curricula, and similar opportunities.

LA has yet to commit dollars and coordinate the vision for career exploration across agencies.



POLICY



Individual Graduation Plans. As issued by state statute, by the end of 8th grade, each student, with the assistance of their parent or legal guardian and school counselor, shall begin to develop an [Individual Graduation Plan](#) (IGP) to guide the next academic year’s course work and to assist the student in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall postsecondary plan.



INFRASTRUCTURE



My Life. My Way. Louisiana Workforce Commission created an online mobile tool, [My Life. My Way.](#), for students, young adults, and others who are interested in finding high-demand careers that are of interest to them. It connects to [Louisiana Star Jobs](#), a job search and career exploration tool that shows users jobs that meet their salary requirements.

Quest for Success. Although [Quest for Success](#) is a high school-level career exploration course that helps students prepare for career and life, if a teacher is trained on Quest for Success, they may teach the course to middle school students.

LA has yet to provide dynamic training opportunities to staff related to middle school career exploration and resources that emphasize best practice.



Full Report



LOUISIANA • 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 core team for the state's Perkins V Plan <u>recognized</u> the importance of a broad spectrum of work-based learning programs to foster career exploration, the development of competencies highly valued in the economy and opportunities to earn to learn. These programs may include registered apprenticeships, internships, co-ops, project-based curricula, and many more similar opportunities.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	LA <u>defines</u> career exploration within state statute as “activities to all students in grades 6-8 that create linkages between what a student does in school and what they want to achieve in life.” Such activities shall include career interest inventories and information to assist them in the career decision-making process and may include job shadowing, job mentoring, and job internships.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	LA does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



LOUISIANA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?		As outlined in state statute, by the end of grade 8, every student, with the assistance of his parent or legal guardian and school counselor, <u>shall</u> begin to develop an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) to guide the next academic year's course work and to assist the student in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall postsecondary plan. By the end of grade 8, each student's IGP or the student's individual education plan, if applicable, shall list the required core courses to be taken through grade 10 and shall identify the courses to be taken in the first year of high school. Students who fail to meet the standard for promotion to grade 9, pursuant to policies adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have any necessary remedial courses included in their IGP. Finally, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's Administrative Code outlines requirements for Jump Start programs, which are locally-developed comprehensive CTE programs. State requirements specify that Jump Start Programs should include plans for a <u>formalized process</u> whereby school counselors and staff can provide high-quality career awareness education and counseling beginning in middle school and throughout high school.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?		LA does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, middle school career exploration is included in <u>LA's Perkins V Plan</u> as a part of the state's progression of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?		By the end of grade 8, every student, with the assistance of their parent or legal guardian and school counselor, is <u>required</u> to develop an IGP to guide the next academic year's course work and to assist the student in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall postsecondary plan.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?		LA does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



LOUISIANA • 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>The state supports a career readiness system that districts opt in to help students get a jump start on their IGP and manage requirements towards graduation. LA Workforce Commission has an online mobile tool called My life. My way. for students interested in finding high-demand careers that interest them, while supporting the standard of living they want to maintain. The LA Office of Student Financial Assistance maintains a career planning tool called Unlock My Future, where students can explore careers related to their interests.</p>
<p>Professional Development</p> <p>Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?</p>		<p>LA offers Quest for Success training for teachers. The career exploration course is only required for high school students; however, a middle school may offer it if the teacher is trained.</p>
<p>Material Supports</p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>LA does not have materials specific to middle school career exploration; however, the LA Career Planning Guide can be used for educational preparation using Career Clusters. This guide is designed as a tool to assist students at all levels in choosing the classes they need not only to graduate, but ultimately gain employment in a high-skill/wage or high-demand job in targeted sectors within the regions.</p>
<p>Data Collection</p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>The state does not have a formal state-level data collection practice for middle school ILPs; however, course enrollment specific to career readiness courses is collected by the state.</p>
<p>CTSOs</p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>LA does not have middle school chapters of CTSOs.</p>
<p>Organizations</p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>LA has several organization in the state that help facilitate career exploration activities for students, including Community Works, Career Compass, and Junior Achievement of North Louisiana.</p>