



MICHIGAN



★ State Highlight

Evaluation of School Counseling Programs. Michigan annually evaluates their school counseling programs through a School Guidance and Counseling Program Audit to ensure schools meet state and national counseling standards. Additionally, the state analyzes student results data to see if they demonstrate a positive change in student behavior and student learning.



VISION



Pathfinder. The Michigan Department of Education’s Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE) has enhanced Michigan’s education and career *Pathfinder*, a free online career exploration tool to support the state’s efforts to achieve key career readiness goals.

State Leadership and Funding. MDE and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) have a history of collaboration and engagement across education, career readiness, and workforce development initiatives. MDE has also committed grants for career exploration.

Michigan has yet to codify its definition of career exploration.



POLICY



Educational Development Plan. As stated in law, students are required to develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) at the start of grade 7 with annual reviews through high school. Students' educational development plans are designed to assist pupils to identify career development goals as they relate to academic requirements. During the process of developing and reviewing a student's EDP, they are advised on how requirements may be fulfilled through career and technical education.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Resources for Districts. MDE provides many resources for districts to support students' career exploration and EDPs, including the Michigan Career Development Model, guidance for EDPs, a work-based learning manual, and a CTE Teacher Tool Kit.

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





MICHIGAN • 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 <u>MDE-OCTE</u> has announced recent enhancements to MI's education and career <i>Pathfinder</i> , a free online career exploration tool to support the state's efforts to achieve key career readiness goals. As members of the National Career Readiness Collaborative, MDE and LEO have a history of collaboration and engagement across education, career readiness, and workforce development initiatives. Key goals identified by MDE and LEO include employer engagement, career-focused accountability systems, and equity and access. MDE has committed grants for career exploration.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Within MI's Career Development Model, career exploration is <u>defined</u> as "students exploring and investigating the state's 17 career clusters to discover which pathway and careers best align with their interests."
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MI does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



MICHIGAN • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The MDE Office of Educator Excellence adheres to the School Counselor Professional Development Law of 2017 that mandates K-12 school counselors complete 50 hours of professional learning, half of which includes career exploration. Under counselor responsibilities , guidance counselors are required to offer career development services, including assisting students in developing a postsecondary plan, and an EDP, which students are required to start in grade 7. Michigan Code tasks MDE with developing a model program of instruction in career development and requires districts to integrate curriculum on career development in each grade level.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Although career exploration participation is not incorporated into the state's ESSA plan, for accountability purposes, counselors are challenged to demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs in measurable terms. They must collect and use data to support and link their programs to students' academic success.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Students are required to develop an educational development plan at the start of grade 7 with annual reviews through high school.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MI does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



MICHIGAN • 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	MI used ESSA funds to support district efforts to guide students through the EDP process and other career exploration activities , including using Career Cruising or the Michigan Occupational Information System. Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity has invested in expanding career exploration opportunities via school and community grants and supporting a career exploration tool called Pathfinder .
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MI 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	MI provides districts with several resources, including the Michigan Career Development Model , which includes career development resources, guidance for the use of students' EDPs, guidance to support the EDP process for students with disabilities, a work-based learning manual , and a CTE Teacher Toolkit to support middle school career exploration. The MI LEO published a College Positive Mentoring Toolkit for middle school students that included resources to guide career exploration.
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	There are no formal state-level data collection practices related to middle school career exploration.
CTSOs Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MI has middle school chapters in CTSOs, including HOSA, FCCLA, FFA, and BPA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MiCareerQuest offers West MI middle and high school students the opportunity to learn about careers in our region's high-demand industries through interactive experiences with local employers. Career Cam at the Career Tech Center in Muskegon hosts a week-long summer camp that lets students explore various career paths.