

MISSISSIPPI

★ State Highlight

Building capacity of middle school educators. The Mississippi State Board of Education's [strategic plan](#) outlines a strategy to target professional learning for teachers and leaders in the middle grades to develop the whole child; this includes mentoring students as they explore authentic pathways.



VISION



State Definition. Mississippi defines career exploration as "essentially finding out about different occupations and their 'fit' with your interest level in various careers."

Mississippi has yet to codify its definition of career exploration and state career exploration as an official priority.

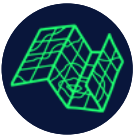


POLICY



Student Success Plan. All 7th grade students are required to develop an Individual Success Plan (ISP). Mississippi Career Exploration and Planning Expectations specify that each student should have an ISP to help them make career and college decisions, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members. These expectations outline what each student in grades 6-8 should know and do to achieve this goal.

Mississippi has yet to formally include middle school career exploration in state and federal accountability systems.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Career Exploration Lesson Plans. The Mississippi Department of Education provides grade-specific lesson plans to help schools and teachers with K-12 career exploration programs.

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





MISSISSIPPI • 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 state's leadership does not have any clear priorities for middle school career exploration.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MS <u>defines</u> career exploration as "essentially finding out about different occupations and their 'fit' with your interest level in various careers."
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MS does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.









MISSISSIPPI • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<u>Mississippi Career Exploration and Planning Expectations</u> specify that each student should have an ISP to help them make career and college decisions, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members. These expectations outline what each student in grades 6-8 should know and do to achieve this goal.
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, MS includes middle school career exploratory programs in their <u>Perkins V Plan</u> .
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Beginning in school year 2018-2019, all 7th grade students are <u>required</u> to have an Individual Success Plan (ISP) prior to exiting grade 7.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	MS does not have any incentives directly related to middle school career exploration.



MISSISSIPPI • 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>MS uses ESSA funds to support the individual student success plan process and college and career counseling. State Perkins V dollars support developing new curriculum for middle school exploratory programs.</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 State Board of Education's strategic plan outlines a requirement to incorporate career pathway professional development for teachers who teach middle grades to build their capacity to develop the whole child, including mentoring students as they explore career pathways.</p>
<p>Material Supports</p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>The Department of Education provides grade-specific lesson plans to help schools establish a K-12 career exploration program.</p>
<p>Data Collection</p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>There are no formal state-level data collection practices related to middle school career exploration.</p>
<p>CTSOs</p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>MS has middle school chapters in HOSA and TSA.</p>
<p>Organizations</p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>Get2College is a college access program of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation. They have a career planning tool available to students and educators. Mississippi State University received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative to provide VR headsets and education software to prepare students for the workforce.</p>