



NEW YORK

★ State Highlight

Required career development instruction. New York [regulations](#) require schools to provide instruction in career development and occupational studies to students in grades 7-8. The state also developed [learning standards](#) to guide this instruction to promote exploration and research into broad career areas of interest to individual students.



VISION



State Definition. New York's [work-based learning manual](#) defines career exploration as “activities that help all students develop a general awareness of themselves, the world of work, and the application of academic concepts.”

Perkins V State Plan. New York’s vision for career and technical education in the state's [Perkins V Plan](#) prioritizes building partnerships to create a continuum of career options that begins with middle and high school career exploration.

NY has yet to codify its definition of career exploration and commit dollars or coordinate across agencies on career exploration.



POLICY



Guidance Counselor Oversight of Career Planning. NY [regulations](#) specify that guidance programs include an annual review of each student’s educational progress and career plans for grades 7-12. Guidance programs must also provide instruction at each grade level to help students learn about various careers and career planning skills conducted by personnel certified or licensed as school counselors or by classroom teachers in cooperation with school counselors.

Perkins V Funding. Middle school career exploration activities are formally included in New York's [Perkins V Plan](#).

NY has yet to connect career exploration requirements to high school and formally include middle school career exploration in state and federal accountability systems.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Career Development Ambassador Program. The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) partnered with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to launch the [Career Development Ambassador Program](#). This four-week paid summer intensive training program will assist educators of grades 6-9 with helping their students understand and explore career options before they graduate high school, better preparing the workforce of the future.

CareerZone. New York DOL hosts a free virtual career exploration tool, [CareerZone](#), that allows students in grades 6-12 to create individual career plans. The tool also features a budget tool, career assessments, career pathways, occupational profiles, and more.



Full Report



NEW YORK • 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	NY's Perkins V Plan outlines the state's vision for career and technical education. It prioritizes building partnerships to create a continuum of career options that begins with middle and high school career exploration and continues to postsecondary concentration in an occupational area, technical skill training, and employment.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	NY's work-based learning manual defines career exploration as activities that help all students develop a general awareness of themselves, the world of work, and the application of academic concepts. These activities provide an opportunity for examination of career options that match a student's interests and aptitudes and for students to observe and interact with individuals in the workplace to learn more about the demands and rewards of a career they are interested in.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The New York State Middle School Association (NYSMSA) discusses the importance of career exploration in middle school and offers resources and tools for educators to implement career exploration programs. The site also provides information on grants and funding opportunities for middle schools.



NEW YORK • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	NY regulations specify that guidance programs include an <u>annual review of each student's educational progress and career plans</u> for grades 7-12, with such reviews to be conducted with each student individually or with small groups by personnel certified or licensed as school counselors. Guidance programs must also provide instruction at each grade level to help students learn about various careers and career planning skills conducted by personnel certified or licensed as school counselors or by classroom teachers in cooperation with school counselors. Additionally, regulations require schools to provide instruction in <u>career development and occupational studies</u> to grades 7-8, leveraging <u>learning standards</u> to guide instruction.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	NY does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, middle school career exploration activities are formally included in NY's <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	NY middle school students must fulfill <u>coursework requirements</u> that include career development and occupational studies.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While NY has some recognition and awards programs in place, none specifically address middle school career exploration.



NEW YORK • 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>NY financially supports CareerZone, which allows students in grades 6-12 to create individual career plans.</p>
<p>Professional Development</p> <p>Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?</p>		<p>NY DOL partners with the NYSED to launch the Career Development Ambassador Program. This four-week paid summer intensive training program will prepare teachers, certified WBL coordinators, and school counselors to develop, implement, and deliver career-readiness strategies for students across New York. This program will assist educators of grades 6-9 with helping their students understand and explore career options before they graduate high school, better preparing the future workforce.</p>
<p>Material Supports</p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>NY provides a curricular guidance framework to assist districts in developing local curricula for middle-level CTE, including six theme modules. The state also has a Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Resource Guide with Core Curriculum as a companion document to the CDOS learning standards; the intermediate section of this guide is designed specifically for middle schools, with additional sample activities for educators.</p>
<p>Data Collection</p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>NY collects data on middle school CTE course participation.</p>
<p>CTSOs</p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>NY supports CTSOs, three of which (FBLA, FFA, and TSA) have middle school chapters. Students can, with local school approval, earn credit for Participation in Government through active membership in a CTSO.</p>
<p>Organizations</p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>College Career Lab at NYU offers rising 8th graders the opportunity to explore a variety of academic pathways and “try on” careers. NYU faculty deliver lectures and workshops on topics ranging from neuroscience to philosophy and everything in between. Students network with industry professionals and participate in introductory courses, mentorship, advising, and a specialized curriculum to enhance soft skills and prepare for the college application or career entry process.</p>