

NORTH DAKOTA



★ State Highlight

Building Capacity with Career Advisors. North Dakota [statute](#) requires a 300:1 student-to-counselor ratio, which can be partially satisfied using career advisors who facilitate career development. Career advisors provide sequential career development activities, current career information, and related career exploration opportunities to students in grades 7-12.



VISION



ND PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction's [PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework](#) focuses on several strategic themes, including career awareness, exploration, and development.

Virtual Reality Career Exploration. The North Dakota Department of CTE received funding from the legislature to launch a [statewide initiative for virtual reality career exploration](#), which brings a world of virtual reality (VR) career exploration to every middle and high school student across the state.

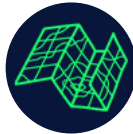
North Dakota has yet to codify the definition of career exploration.



POLICY



Career Interest Inventory. ND code requires school districts to administer a [career interest inventory](#) to students once during the 7th or 8th grade and once during the 9th or 10th grade. Districts must arrange for 7th or 8th students to participate in an individual consultative process or a nine-week course to discuss the results of their career interest inventory, select high school courses appropriate to their educational pursuits and career interests, and develop individual high school education plans.



INFRASTRUCTURE



State Automated Reporting System (STARS). ND collects data on career planning requirements for their [STARS data collection](#), including completion of the interest profile, career clusters interest survey, and other career planning activities.

Professional Development. North Dakota's Department of Career and Technical Education facilitates professional development conferences for [career development & career advisors](#) and provides [career development & legislative updates](#).





NORTH DAKOTA • 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	ND DPI's PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework focuses on several strategic themes, including career awareness, exploration, and development. Resources and staff efforts have been aligned toward these strategic initiatives. The ND Department of CTE received funding from the legislature to launch a statewide initiative for virtual reality career exploration . This allowed the department to bring virtual reality (VR) career exploration to middle and high school students across the state.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND's Career Planning Continuum defines career exploration activities as those that allow students to explore careers of interest and plan for the future.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



NORTH DAKOTA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
<p>Standards</p> <p>Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>ND code requires school districts to administer a <u>career interest inventory</u> to students once during the 7th or 8th grade. School districts are required to have students participate in either an individual consultative process or a <u>nine-week course</u> to discuss the results of their career interest inventory, select high school courses appropriate to their educational pursuits and career interests, and develop individual high school education plans. To support this work, the ND statute has <u>student-to-counselor ratios</u>, which can be partially satisfied using <u>career advisors</u> who facilitate career development. <u>CTE programs of study</u> also include career exploration standards for middle grades.</p>
<p>Accountability</p> <p>Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?</p>		<p>ND's <u>Choice Ready</u> indicator measures whether high schools prepare students for success after graduation. This includes Essential Skills required of middle school requirements, such as completing a career exploration course, advising 7th or 8th-grade students, developing high school education plans that align with education goals and career interests, and completing a career interest survey.</p>
<p>Student Requirements</p> <p>Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?</p>		<p>ND <u>requires</u> students to complete their Essential Skills requirements, which include a career interest inventory, advising or exploratory course, and a high school plan, starting in middle school, to be a Choice Ready graduate.</p>
<p>Incentives</p> <p>Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>ND has a <u>STEM Days Grant</u> opportunity to encourage education entities and business/industry partners to participate in STEM activities/projects for K-12 students within each of the four designated ND STEM Ecosystem Regions, providing opportunities for rural and tribal communities. Additionally, the state uses Perkins dollars to facilitate the <u>Students Preparing for Nontraditional Fields</u> to assist students to access a full range of occupational choices regardless of gender and assist schools with meeting or exceeding Perkins performance levels for student participation in and completion of programs leading to nontraditional careers.</p>



NORTH DAKOTA • 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	ND financially supports RUReady.ND is an online career planning tool with specific pages for middle school students. The state also has grant opportunities to support STEM career exploration and programs encouraging students to explore nontraditional fields .
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND's Department of Career and Technical Education facilitates professional development conferences for career development & career advisors and provides career development & legislative updates .
Guidance Implementation Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND provides resources on the academic and career planning process . The state also has a guide on Career Exploration Across the Curriculum , which summarizes how teachers in each content area can assist students in career exploration.
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND collects data on its career planning requirements as part of their State Automated Reporting System (STARS) data collection.
CTSOs Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	ND supports CTSOs , four of which have middle school chapters: FBLA, HOSA, FCCLA, and TSA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	North Dakota Small Organized Schools partnered with Be More Colorful to develop CareerViewXR , a unique and immersive career exploration tool. This collaboration ultimately resulted in a \$500,000 legislative appropriation for CTE programming, specifically to purchase CareerViewXR for all middle and high schools in the state.