

# OHIO

## State Highlight

**Perkins V Dollars.** Ohio encourages recipients of Perkins V dollars to use funds for career exploration and career development activities through an organized, systematic framework designed to aid students, including those in the middle grades.



### VISION



**Career Connections.** Career Connections is a joint initiative among the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation and Ohio DOE that aligns efforts around college and career readiness.

**Career Connections Framework.** Ohio's Career Connections Framework states that career exploration strategies are opportunities for middle school students to discover work environments and understand the various aspects of the workplace. Students begin course planning as well as set career aspirations and goals.

Ohio has yet to codify the definition of career exploration.



### POLICY



**Written Career Plan for Students.** In Ohio, school districts may assist a student in developing a written career plan. If state funds are used to do so, the plan must be created prior to the end of the 8th grade. Plans must identify the student's career goals and indicate educational goals to prepare students for their selected careers. The plans are updated throughout the student's high school years and must result in a career passport. Career passports document the knowledge and skills of the student, including documentation of the student's coursework and employment, community, or leadership experiences. Additionally, passports list students' competencies, attendance records, and career credentials.

Ohio has yet to formally include middle school career exploration in state or federal accountability systems.



### INFRASTRUCTURE






**State and Federal Funding Support.** OH appropriates state CTE program funding to support career awareness programs in grades K-12. Additionally, the state of Ohio's biennium budget includes per-pupil funding for “Career Awareness and Exploration.” Perkins V recipients are also encouraged to use funds for career exploration and development activities through an organized, systematic framework designed to aid students in the middle grades.

**Career Advising Toolkits.** Ohio's Office of Graduate Success created the Career Advising Toolkit to develop comprehensive K-12 career advising and exploration models that do not rely solely on the role of the counselor. These include recorded and regularly scheduled professional development opportunities.





Category	Status	Description
<p><b>Leadership</b></p> <p>Does the state leadership include career exploration as a valued or prioritized component of students' middle school experience?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p><u>Career Connections</u> is a joint initiative among the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and Ohio DOE. Career Connections will align the many efforts around college and career readiness to support students in becoming productive and engaged citizens. Additionally, the Ohio General Assembly codified requirements to require every school district and educational service center (ESC) to have a <u>business advisory council</u>. One of the stated activities of these councils includes career counseling and exploration.</p>
<p><b>Career Exploration Definition</b></p> <p>Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p>OH's <u>Career Connections Framework</u> states that career exploration strategies are opportunities for students to discover work environments and understand the various aspects of the workplace. Strategies include tools and instruments that help students understand and appreciate their strengths and interests. Students start plans for their future with career information and postsecondary education data. Plans include course selection and planning as well as career aspirations and goals.</p>
<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p>OH does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.</p>



Category	Status	Description
<p><b>Standards</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>OH statute authorizes school districts to assist any student in developing a <u>written career plan</u>. Career plans created using state funds must be completed before the end of the eighth-grade year, identify career goals and indicate educational goals to prepare for those career goals, and be updated periodically as students successfully complete high school coursework. School districts must also adopt a <u>policy on career advising</u> for students in grades 6-12. OH also requires boards of education to adopt a <u>resolution</u> describing how the district will address college and career readiness in its curriculum for grade seven or eight and for any other grades in which the board determines that those subjects should be addressed. OH also offers a <u>career connections course</u> for grades 7-9 that engages students in career-related experiences to acquire basic skills in various career fields.</p>
<p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p>Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?</p>		<p>OH does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, general career exploration activities are formally included in <u>OH's Perkins V Plan</u>, although not specifically targeted to middle school students.</p>
<p><b>Student Requirements</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?</p>		<p>While OH outlines components of a Student Success Plan, it is not a requirement for middle school students.</p>
<p><b>Incentives</b></p> <p>Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>While OH has some recognition and awards programs in place, none specifically address middle school career exploration.</p>



# OHIO • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
<b>Funding</b> Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?		OH appropriates state CTE program funding and a <u>per-pupil allowance</u> to support <u>career awareness programs</u> in grades K-12. The state also financially supports <u>OhioMeansJobs</u> , a career planning tool with resources targeted to middle school students. Recipients of <u>Perkins V dollars</u> are also encouraged to use funds for career exploration and career development activities through an organized, systematic framework designed to aid students, including in the middle grades.
<b>Professional Development</b> Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?		The Office of Graduate Success created the <u>Career Advising Toolkit</u> with the goal of developing comprehensive K-12 career advising and exploration models that do not rely solely on the role of the counselor. There are recorded and regularly scheduled professional development opportunities.
<b>Material Supports</b> Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?		OH provides several <u>resources on career advising</u> , including a <u>Career Advising Plan Template</u> to support school districts in converting career advising policies into actionable, locally driven, equitable, student-centered career advising plans.
<b>Data Collection</b> Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?		OH collects data on <u>CTE exploratory course participation</u> .
<b>CTSOs</b> Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?		OH <u>supports CTSOs</u> , five of which (FBLA, HOSA, FCCLA, FFA, Ohio SkillsUSA) have middle school chapters.
<b>Organizations</b> Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?		The <u>First Ring Schools Collaborative</u> provides resources to promote students' career readiness, including career interest inventories and career planning tools. The <u>Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center</u> provides valuable information, tools, and resources to help support students in their career journey. INFOhio is Ohio's PreK-12 digital library and has resources, tools, and lessons that support exploration, investigation, and planning as students develop career awareness and soft skills needed in careers and make plans for post-high school.