



OKLAHOMA

★ State Highlight

CareerTech Assistance. Oklahoma uses state funding to support middle school CareerTech programs and provide a salary supplement to teachers.



VISION



Oklahoma Edge. The Department of Education's Oklahoma Edge initiative requires all grades 6 through 12 students to complete an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), easing their transition from grade to grade.

Work-Based Learning Implementation Guide. Oklahoma's Work-Based Learning Implementation Guide defines career exploration activities as those that help students learn about the skills needed for specific careers by observing and interacting with employees in the workplace in particular careers in which students are interested.

Oklahoma has yet to codify the definition of career exploration.



POLICY



Individual Career Academic Plan. Oklahoma statute requires 6th-grade students to develop an ICAP to engage students and families in developing a clear and workable pathway to postsecondary success. The statute specifies that the ICAP should be developed collaboratively with school counselors, administrators, teachers, and other personnel.



INFRASTRUCTURE



OK Career Guide. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education supports an online resource, OK Career Guide, available for all Oklahomans to explore and guide their future. The site helps students navigate the ICAP experience with career interest and planning tools. It also supports ICAP Oklahoma, which allows students and educators to track ICAP progress inside OKCareerGuide.org.





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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	<u>Oklahoma Edge</u> is the OSDE's commitment to giving students a competitive edge while pursuing college and careers. This initiative has several associated <u>legislative bills</u> , including those that address ICAPs and WBL opportunities. One of the major components of this initiative is to have all students in grades 6 through 12 complete an ICAP, easing their transition from grade to grade.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	OK's <u>Work-Based Learning Implementation Guide</u> defines career exploration activities as those that "help students learn about the skills needed for specific careers by observing and interacting with employees in the workplace." Career exploration activities usually focus more on specific careers in which students are interested.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	OK does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?		OK statute requires school districts to fully incorporate and implement an ICAP process in grades 6-12, which should be used to help establish students' personalized academic and career goals and explore postsecondary career opportunities. The statute specifies that this should be developed with school counselors, administrators, teachers, and other school personnel. In addition, the state's WBL manual provides robust standards for career exploration activities, including instructions for teachers, counselors, and career advisors a week before, during, and after the activities.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?		OK does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, OK leverages its Perkins V Plan to provide additional funding for the increased need for career exploration in the middle grades.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?		OK statutes require 6th-grade students to develop an Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) to engage students and families in developing a clear and workable pathway to postsecondary success. ICAP refers to a process that helps students engage in academic and career development activities and is a product created and maintained for students' academic, employment, and personal advancement. ICAPs are required for high school graduation.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?		OK's Department of CTE offers the Innovation in Career Exploration Grant to support innovative school improvement efforts to develop middle school STEM exploratory programs that lead to increasing academic rigor and student achievement. The department also supports the Career Development and Programs of Study Grant to improve and strengthen guidance and counseling programs addressing the career domain by providing CTE students the opportunities to engage in innovative career exploration. CareerTech middle school programs receive program assistance funds, and teachers receive a salary supplement.



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Category	Status	Description
Funding Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?		OK financially supports OK Career Guide , an online resource that helps students navigate the ICAP experience with career interest and planning tools. OK is also expanding its Perkins V funding to allow more funding to flow to secondary schools to address the increased need for career exploration in the middle grades. OK also allocates state funding to support career exploration activities that address how computer science skills are utilized. CareerTech middle school programs receive program assistance funds, and teachers receive a salary supplement.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?		OK allows districts to use Perkins V state leadership dollars to fund a specialist for CTE staff training & resources to assist CTE educators with certification. Educators can also access webinars on career development topics and ICAP online tool training. OK also provides opportunities to request a College & Career Readiness Training custom workshop . The Department of CTE also has hands-on training and webinars to help educators learn how to use OKCareerGuide.
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?		OK's Department of CTE provides several resources under its OKCareerGuide initiative. These include ICAP Oklahoma, which allows students and educators to track ICAP progress inside OKCareerGuide.org . The state's OklahomaEdge website also provides numerous resources to help guide the ICAP process, including a toolkit .
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?		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?		OK supports CTSOs , four of which have middle school chapters: FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and TSA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?		Summer STEM academies , sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, are open to upcoming 8th through 12th graders. Each academy explores the latest math, science, and technology trends by using hands-on activities and innovative software as students experiment both in the classroom and outdoors. Many academies also include field trips to some of the state's top companies, science facilities, and museums.