

# OREGON

## ★ State Highlight

**Education Plan Guidance.** Oregon provides guidance to educators to support the implementation of the state's Education Plan and Profile requirement. The guidance resource includes commonly used platforms to store students' plans and profiles.



### VISION



**State Definition.** Oregon's WBL Handbook defines career exploration as a stage within a broader framework of Career Connected Learning where students learn for work with experiences such as job shadowing and service learning.

**CTE State Plan.** Oregon's CTE State Plan focuses on building scope and sequence for career awareness from the middle grades through postsecondary and into the workforce.

Oregon has yet to codify the definition of career exploration or commit dollars or coordinate across agencies on career exploration.



### POLICY



**Education Plan and Profile.** As issued by rule, school districts in Oregon are required to develop a process that provides each student the opportunity to develop an education plan and an education profile (EPP) in grades 7-12 with adult guidance. Students' plans identify personal and career interests, tentative educational and career goals, and post-secondary plans. Plans also design, monitor, and adjust courses of study to meet students' goals. The plan and profile are to be reviewed at least annually. The career-related learning experiences are planned and documented in the student's EPP about their career interests, aptitudes, and post-high school goals.

Oregon has yet to formally include middle school career exploration in state or federal accountability systems or provide incentives for career exploration activities.



### INFRASTRUCTURE



**Perkins Funding.** Oregon's Perkins V Plan encourages the expenditure of Perkins funds in middle school so learners can experience careers earlier by participating in activities linked to CTE Programs of Study. The state also plans to leverage state leadership funds to support learners navigating paths to careers by piloting middle school career exploration programs and training on implementing OR's career development scope and sequence. OR also sets aside Perkins funding to provide CTE educators professional learning on creating inclusive learning environments and expanding career-related learning in middle grades.

**Education Plan and Profile Guidance.** Oregon provides several resources on implementing the Education Plan and Profile requirement, including guidance to students, families, and schools on career-related work experiences.





# OREGON • VISION

Category	Status	Description
<b>Leadership</b> Does the state leadership include career exploration as a valued or prioritized component of students' middle school experience?	 Building Emerging Advanced	OR's <a href="#">CTE State Plan</a> focuses on integrating Career Connected Learning systemically in Oregon by building a scope and sequence for career awareness from the middle grades through postsecondary education and into the workforce.
<b>Career Exploration Definition</b> Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	OR's <a href="#">WBL Handbook</a> defines career exploration as a stage within a broader framework of Career Connected Learning where students learn for work with experiences such as job shadowing and service learning.
<b>Advocacy</b> Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<a href="#">Commons Open Educational Resources</a> provides resources that are a product of a collaboration of educators from all content areas and the ODE. They are created by and for educators - including lesson and unit materials, review rubrics, and other useful links to support K-12 career-connected learning, including <a href="#">middle school career exploration</a> .









# OREGON • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
<b>Standards</b> Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<p>The Oregon School Counselors Association (OSCA) has developed a set of <a href="#">standards for school counseling</a> that focuses on career exploration. The OSCA standards state that school counselors should help students address the academic, career, social/emotional, and community involvement aspects of student development to assist learning at each grade level. However, the state does not have separate policies or standard practices for middle schools.</p> <p>Oregon school districts <u>must</u> develop a process that allows each student to develop an education plan and build an education profile in grades 7 through 12 with adult guidance. The Education Plan and Profile (EPP) documents an individual learner's academic and career goals, planning, achievements, and related experiences based upon a comprehensive series of career awareness and exploration activities. The Career-Related Learning Experiences are planned and documented in the student's Education Plan and Profile about their career interests, aptitudes, and post-high school goals.</p>
<b>Accountability</b> Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<p>OR does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, expanding career exploration into middle school to support diversifying the students entering prioritized CTE programs is emphasized in <a href="#">OR's Perkins V Plan</a>. The Aligning for Student Success Integrated Application, which coordinates grant funding across six programs, requires school districts to share their approaches to providing a well-rounded education for each grade level and effective transition strategies, career guidance, and exploration opportunities.</p>
<b>Student Requirements</b> Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<p>OR regulations require students to develop an <a href="#">education plan and build an education profile</a>. The plan, a graduation requirement, should identify personal and career interests, tentative educational/career goals, and post-high school next steps. This must be developed in grades 7-12 with adult guidance, reviewed and updated annually, and supported by a comprehensive guidance counseling program.</p>
<b>Incentives</b> Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<p>While OR has some recognition and awards programs in place, none specifically address middle school career exploration.</p>



# OREGON • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
<p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?</p>		<p>OR's <a href="#">Perkins V Plan</a> encourages expenditures for middle school so learners can experience careers earlier by participating in CTE programming. The state also plans to leverage state leadership funds to pilot middle school career exploration programs and provide training on implementing OR's career development scope and sequence. The <a href="#">Aligning for Student Success Integrated Application</a> allows school districts to spend money on career guidance and exploration opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Professional Development</b></p> <p>Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?</p>		<p>OR sets aside Perkins V funding to provide <a href="#">CTE educators with professional learning</a> on creating inclusive learning environments. Their Perkins plan also outlines other professional learning opportunities and technical assistance to <a href="#">develop systems and support for expanding career-related learning in middle grades</a>. <a href="#">Partnering with state agencies</a> also provides professional development opportunities to implement career-connected learning in middle school.</p>
<p><b>Material Supports</b></p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>OR provides <a href="#">resources</a> to implement the EPP requirement, including guidance to students, families, and schools. The state also provides resources for <a href="#">career-related work experiences</a>. The OR DOE partners with the <a href="#">Oregon Career Information System (CIS)</a> to provide occupational and educational data and materials to help residents learn about the world of work and education. Supplemental funds from <a href="#">Every Day Matters</a>, the DOE's initiative to address chronic absenteeism, provide access to career exploration tools for middle school students. The CCL Resources Hub is being developed to share resources related to career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training.</p>
<p><b>Data Collection</b></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><b>CTSOs</b></p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>OR <a href="#">supports CTSOs</a>, two of which have middle school chapters: FBLA and FFA. The state provides guidance to CTSOs on how to develop student leadership. The state also has a foundation dedicated to promoting and facilitating the growth of student leadership in CTE through a partnership across CTSOs, the state, and industry partners.</p>
<p><b>Organizations</b></p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p>The <a href="#">Beaverton Education Foundation's</a> Middle School Trades Exploration program fosters career interests and skills for middle school students by bringing manufacturing careers to life through curricular and experiential learning. The Journalistic Learning Initiative collaborated with the OR DOE and the University of Oregon to develop the <a href="#">Career Journeys video series</a> highlighting the career journeys of near-peer Oregonians with complementary lessons and activities.</p>