

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## ★ State Highlight

**Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates Grant.** South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) established the [Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates Grant](#) to help schools implement evidence-based strategies and/or models designed to address students' academic and career development needs that align with the state's Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.



### VISION



**State Definition.** South Carolina's [Perkins V Plan](#) defines career exploration as exposure to learning that develops life and career characteristics.

South Carolina has yet to coordinate across agencies on career exploration or codify the definition of career exploration.



### POLICY



**Individual Graduation Plans.** South Carolina [code](#) requires students to complete an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) in the middle grades. The plan identifies career interests and abilities and aligns them with study clusters. The personalized plan continues through high school, providing students with guidance and curricula to meet their interests and goals.

**Introduction to Career Clusters.** South Carolina provides middle school students with a course, [Introduction to Career Clusters](#), that introduces them to the sixteen national career clusters. Students can explore job tasks and career opportunities in each cluster while identifying pathways from high school to postsecondary education and the workplace. The course provides exposure that helps students develop an initial IGP in the 8th grade.



### INFRASTRUCTURE






**State Funding for Career Awareness.** South Carolina [statute](#) requires school districts to lay the foundation for career clusters by providing career awareness activities. In middle school, programs must identify career interests as part of foundational work for individual graduation plans.

South Carolina has yet to provide dynamic training opportunities to staff related to middle school career exploration.





# SOUTH CAROLINA • 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	The state's leadership does not have any public statements about middle school career exploration as a priority for the state.
<b>Career Exploration Definition</b> Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SC's <a href="#">Perkin's V Plan</a> defines career exploration as exposure to learning that develops life and career characteristics.
<b>Advocacy</b> Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SC does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



# SOUTH CAROLINA • 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	SC's <a href="#">Introduction to Career Clusters course</a> is designed to provide middle school students with an introduction to career possibilities in the sixteen national career clusters adopted by the SCDE. Students can explore job tasks and career opportunities in each cluster while identifying pathways from high school to postsecondary education and the workplace. Students learn skills needed for success in college and careers with relevance to academic standards. This course provides exposure to help each student gain an understanding of careers to assist in the development of an initial IGP in the 8th grade.
<b>Accountability</b> Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SC does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, as part of the state's <a href="#">accountability mechanisms for the Education and Economic Development Act</a> , SCDE conducts an Employment Verification Form to ensure student-to-guidance personnel ratios are met and a Career Specialist Accountability Report to ensure that school counseling personnel are coordinating or facilitating various career awareness, exploration, and preparation opportunities for students throughout the academic year. Requirements for career exploration, planning, and guidance opportunities for middle grades are also formally included in <a href="#">SC's Perkins V Plan</a> .
<b>Student Requirements</b> Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SC code requires students to complete an <a href="#">ILP</a> in the middle grades. The plan identifies career interests and abilities and aligns them with study clusters. This plan follows the student to high school, where they are provided guidance and curricula that will enable them to complete their individual graduation plans successfully.
<b>Incentives</b> Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SCDE uses state funds for the <a href="#">Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates Grant</a> to help schools implement evidence-based strategies and/or models specifically designed to address the academic and career development needs of students with proven academic deficiencies so that, upon completing high school, these students will possess the knowledge, skills, life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.



# SOUTH CAROLINA • 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>SC statute specifies that <u>state funding</u>, as appropriated by the legislature, can be used to implement middle-grades programs that must allow students to identify career interests and abilities and align them with clusters of study for the development of ILPs.</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>SCDE's <u>Career Specialist Toolkit</u> provides a webpage of resources dedicated to assisting Career Specialists and Career Guidance Personnel in meeting the demands of today's world of career guidance and students' needs.</p>
<p><b>Material Supports</b></p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>SC provides several resources for <u>Career Exploration</u> in grades 6-8 on their website. The state also developed a <u>Comprehensive School Counseling &amp; Career Guidance Model</u> that establishes the guidelines necessary to consistently deliver comprehensive school counseling and career guidance programming to all students. The SCDE also has a <u>Career Specialist Toolkit</u>, a webpage of resources dedicated to assisting Career Specialists and Career Guidance Personnel in delivering career planning services.</p>
<p><b>Data Collection</b></p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>SC surveys school counselors, career specialists, and students as part of its <u>annual review of the IGP counseling sessions</u>. SC also <u>collects data</u> to ensure that the SCDE has provided funds directly to districts to assist schools in hiring adequate staff to meet the 300:1 student-to-guidance personnel ratio to ensure that school counseling personnel are coordinating or facilitating various career awareness, exploration, and preparation opportunities for students throughout the academic year. The state also collects data on middle school CTE course participation.</p>
<p><b>CTSOs</b></p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>SC <u>supports CTSOs</u>, three of which have middle school chapters: FBLA, HOSA, and TSA. The state also has guidelines for state CTSOs.</p>
<p><b>Organizations</b></p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p><u>SC Career Kids</u> provides opportunities for ALL children to explore careers through interactive experiences where students engage and build relationships with skilled experts. <u>Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina</u> offers programming and activities for middle school students to explore careers.</p>