

SOUTH DAKOTA

★ State Highlight

Career Exploration Camps. Dakota Dreams is a non-profit organization in South Dakota that offers career exploration planning tools on their website. It also operates Dakota Dreams Career Exploration Summer Camps for middle school students.



VISION



State Definition. South Dakota's WBL guidance defines career exploration as diving in to learn more specifics about targeted careers.

Week of Work. The South Dakota Departments of Education (SDE) and Labor (SDDOL) announced South Dakota Week of Work to help middle and high school students explore career opportunities across the state. Students can participate virtually in live panel discussions with South Dakota business and industry professionals.



POLICY



School Counseling Framework. South Dakota developed a School Counseling Framework that includes a standard on career development, which states that school counselors should help students with their career/college and personal/social competencies.

Perkins V Plan. South Dakota's Perkins V Plan requires funds for middle school CTE to cover career exploration of all 16 career clusters and include a component of work-based learning.

South Dakota has yet to establish student requirements around middle school career exploration or provide incentives for these activities.



INFRASTRUCTURE






SDMyLife. SDE provides an online program, SDMyLife, assisting students with navigating the career development process with several resources and links. The site also includes resources for educators to help students plan for careers, including lessons, activities, and training.

South Dakota has yet to provide dynamic training opportunities to school staff related to middle school career exploration or provide career exploration resources that emphasize best practices.





SOUTH 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	The SDE and SDDOL announced SD <i>Week of Work</i> to help middle and high school students explore career opportunities across the state. Students can participate virtually in live panel discussions with SD business and industry professionals from various career fields.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SD's WBL guidance defines career exploration as diving in to learn more specifics about targeted careers.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SD does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



SOUTH DAKOTA • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The SD School Counseling Framework includes a standard on career development, which states that school counselors should help students with their career/college and personal/social competencies. However, there are not specific policies or practices targeted at middle school students.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SD does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, SD leverages its Perkins V Plan to require these funds for middle school CTE to cover career exploration of all 16 career clusters and include a work-based learning component.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While SD offers a career exploration course to guide career planning for middle school students, there are no associated requirements for middle school students.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While SD has some recognition and awards programs in place, none specifically address middle school career exploration.



SOUTH 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	SD used part of their federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act to allow entering 7th and 8th-grade students to participate in free five-day career exploration summer camps . Hosted on SD college campuses, these camps expose students to various career paths through fun, engaging, and hands-on learning.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While SD supports general CTE professional development, the state does not provide trainings specifically on middle school career exploration.
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SDMyLife is an online program assisting students with navigating the career development process with several resources and links. The site also includes resources for educators to help students plan for careers, including lessons, activities, and training.
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	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?	 Building Emerging Advanced	SD supports CTSOs , two of which have middle school chapters: HOSA and FCCLA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Dakota Dreams emphasizes the importance of career exploration as a crucial part of launching a successful future. The organization offers career exploration planning tools on their website, and operates Dakota Dreams Career Exploration Summer Camps for rising 7th and 8th graders.