

# UTAH

## ★ State Highlight

**Data Collection for Continuous Improvement.** Utah collects data, including student-to-counselor ratios, program evaluation ratings, and surveys, on school counseling programs to ensure they align with Utah's College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program framework.



### VISION



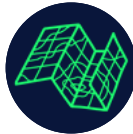
Utah has yet to define career exploration in public-facing resources and to state career exploration as an official priority.



### POLICY



**Plan for College and Career Readiness.** Utah code requires 7th grade students, along with their parents, to initiate a plan for college and career readiness in consultation with school counselors, teachers, and administrators. The plan must identify a student's skills and objectives, map out a strategy to guide a student's course selection, and link a student to postsecondary options, including higher education and careers. This plan follows the student through their high school experience. To support this, Utah also has comprehensive guidelines and standards for the implementation, management, and funding of the School Counseling Program, with a focus on ensuring college and career readiness for students in grades 7-12.



### INFRASTRUCTURE



**State Supported CTSOs.** Utah supports CTSOs, three of which have middle school chapters. The state has a policy guide that outlines fiscal and programmatic components of CTSOs. CTSO activities are also codified in state board rule.




**College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program Model.** Utah developed a comprehensive framework for school counselors to promote a whole child approach to academic/learning, life/career, multicultural/global citizenship, and social/emotional development for each student. The model includes competencies on life and career development, including exploring the world of work.

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





# UTAH • 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	UT outlines definitions for secondary CTE programs, but does not have a specific definition for career exploration in middle school.
<b>Advocacy</b> Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building    Emerging    Advanced	UT does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



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<b>Standards</b> Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	UT's <a href="#">College &amp; Career Awareness Program</a> requires a course for students in grades 7-8. The course is designed to increase awareness of college and career pathways. Students explore high school, college, and career options based on individual interests, abilities, and skills. The state also requires districts and schools to establish policies to provide for the effective implementation of an individual learning plan or a <a href="#">plan for college and career readiness</a> for each student beginning in 7th grade. UT also has comprehensive guidelines and standards for the implementation, management, and funding of the <a href="#">School Counseling Program</a> , with a focus on ensuring college and career readiness for students in grades 7-12.
<b>Accountability</b> Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	UT does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, UT statute requires districts to implement a <a href="#">comprehensive system of accountability</a> that includes the required plan for college and career readiness; districts and schools must make an annual report to their patrons on its activities under this section. The state also requires a <a href="#">formalized accountability process of annual program evaluation for school counseling programs</a> that ensures programs align to the state's college and career readiness program model. Additionally, middle school career exploration activities are formally included in <a href="#">UT's Perkins Plan</a> , which is noted as an area of emphasis for the state and eligible recipients.
<b>Student Requirements</b> Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	UT code requires 7th grade students, along with their parents, to initiate a <a href="#">plan for college and career readiness</a> in consultation with school counselors, teachers, and administrators. The plan must identify a student's skills and objectives, map out a strategy to guide a student's course selection, and link a student to postsecondary options, including higher education and careers. This plan follows the student through their high school experience.
<b>Incentives</b> Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	UT provides <a href="#">College and Career Awareness funds</a> through their CTE Ongoing Allocation to maintain state-of-the art College and Career Awareness curriculum, purchase equipment and supplies, refine program curriculum, and provide ongoing professional development training for teachers, counselors, work-based learning coordinators and administrators.



# UTAH • 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>UT's <a href="#">CTE Ongoing Allocation</a> sets aside funding for the state's College and Career Awareness program. State funds can also support districts' <a href="#">School Counseling Programs</a> for grades 7-12.</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>The state does not provide professional development specifically for middle school career exploration.</p>
<p><b>Material Supports</b></p> <p>Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?</p>		<p>UT's <a href="#">College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program Model</a> provides a comprehensive framework for school counselors to promote a whole child approach to academic/learning, life/career, multicultural/global citizenship, and social/emotional development for each student. The model includes competencies in life and career development, including exploring the world of work. The state also provides other resources to guide career planning on its <a href="#">school counseling website</a>.</p>
<p><b>Data Collection</b></p> <p>Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?</p>		<p>UT <a href="#">collects data on school counseling programs</a> to ensure they align with Utah's College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program framework. Some data collected include student-to-counselor ratio and program evaluation ratings for the career planning components of school counseling programs. The state also <a href="#">conducts surveys</a> to assess and improve school counseling program delivery.</p>
<p><b>CTSOs</b></p> <p>Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?</p>		<p>UT <a href="#">supports CTSOs</a>, three of which have middle school chapters: FBLA, FCCLA, and TSA. The state has a <a href="#">policy guide</a> that outlines fiscal and programmatic components of CTSOs. CTSO activities are also codified in <a href="#">state board rule</a>.</p>
<p><b>Organizations</b></p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?</p>		<p><a href="#">YouScience</a> provides a tech platform that provides personalized career guidance aimed at closing the career exposure gaps. They also provide <a href="#">reports</a> on middle school career exploration in the state.</p>