

VERMONT

State Highlight

Perkins V Allocations. Vermont has allocated Perkins V dollars to support practitioner technical assistance and professional development to increase the number of licensed work-based learning coordinators across the state, primarily in middle and high schools.



VISION



State Definition. Vermont's State Board of Education (SBE) defines career exploration as student-driven experiences with professionals that allow students to learn about specific areas of interest based on inventories/assessments. These experiences should align with their personal, academic, and career goals outlined in their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). They can include experiences such as Informational Interviews, Job Shadows, Virtual Learning, Unpaid Work Experience, and Career Work Experience.

Vermont has yet to commit dollars or coordinate across agencies on career exploration.



POLICY



Flexible Pathways Initiative. As issued by Act 77, Vermont's Flexible Pathways Initiative requires the Secretary of Education to assist districts in working with every student in grades 7-12 in an ongoing personalized learning planning process that identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and disposition; includes participation by families and other engaged adults; guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-quality educational experiences; and is documented by a PLP.



INFRASTRUCTURE






Vermont Work-Based Learning Manual. The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) created a resource, the Vermont Work-Based Learning Manual, that offers a variety of tools to assist practitioners with developing, implementing, and evaluating work-based learning experiences.

Vermont has yet to provide career exploration resources that emphasize best practices or incorporate these activities into their data collection processes.





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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	VT's Perkins V Plan states that career counseling and advising is part of a more comprehensive solution to career readiness and highlights the importance of national research that suggests career counseling and advising at the middle school level is critically important.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT's SBE defines career exploration as student-driven experiences with professionals that allow students to learn about areas of interest based on inventories. These experiences should align with their personal, academic, and career goals outlined in their PLP. They can include experiences such as informational interviews, job shadows, virtual learning, and unpaid work experience.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



VERMONT • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT's Flexible Pathways Initiative requires the Secretary of Education to assist districts in working with every student in grades 7-12 in an ongoing <u>personalized learning planning process</u> that identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and disposition; includes participation by families and other engaged adults; guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-quality educational experiences; and is documented by a personalized learning plan.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, <u>VT's Perkins V Plan</u> highlights the importance of starting career counseling and advising in middle school, which is considered part of their program approval process.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT's Flexible Pathways Initiative, or Act 77, requires that every publicly-funded Vermont student in grades 7-12 participate in the <u>personalized learning planning process</u> . This process should identify the student's emerging abilities, aptitudes, and dispositions; include the participation of families and other engaged/trusted adults; guide decisions regarding course offerings and other high-quality experiences; and document the personalized learning planning process over time (i.e., create and maintain a student PLP).
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT annually makes nearly \$300,000 in federal and state funds available to regional CTE centers for <u>program innovation</u> . The program intends to encourage regional CTE centers to modify existing programs or develop new programs to meet the needs of business and industry better and to help programs be more responsive to student interest. The state also has a <u>STEAM Challenge Grant</u> that provides students with an innovative learning opportunity to use STEAM learning principles to solve problems within their communities or the state.



VERMONT • 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	VT has outlined priorities for Perkins V dollars , which include ensuring that every school district serving students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to benefit from Perkins V and existing state funds in some way, primarily through improvements or expansions upon career guidance systems and career development activities in coordination with the regional CTE system.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT's Perkins V Plan details the provision of technical assistance and professional development to practitioners, which has increased the number of licensed work-based learning coordinators across the state, primarily in middle and high schools, over the last two years.
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	VT's Work-Based Learning Manual offers a variety of tools to support safe, meaningful, and sustainable work-based learning experiences for all learners, including career exploration. This manual is designed to assist practitioners with developing, implementing, and evaluating well-rounded, work-based learning experiences for all learners.
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	VT supports CTSOs , two of which have middle school chapters: FFA and SkillsUSA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Careers CLiC supports career exploration specifically for middle school students. The organization guides K-12 students through career exploration by connecting schools and employers in their communities. Rosie's Girls Camp is a STEAM, trades, and career exploration summer day camp for middle school girls offered in communities across VT.