



WISCONSIN

★ State Highlight

Codifying Career Exploration. Wisconsin codified its definition of middle school career exploration as the process of students developing an understanding of the continuum of careers across work environments, duties, and responsibilities and how their interests and skills relate to those careers.



VISION



State Definition. Wisconsin code defines career exploration at the middle school grade levels as developing an understanding of the continuum of careers across work environments, duties, and responsibilities and how a student’s personal interests and skills relate to those careers. Career exploration may also include work-based learning experiences and career research identifying personal preferences in relation to occupations and careers students may pursue.

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



POLICY



Education for Employment Program. Wisconsin statutes require school boards to develop an Education for Employment Program. The program must include career exploration at the middle school grade levels, including understanding the continuum of careers across work environments, duties, and responsibilities and how a student’s interests and skills relate to those careers.

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



INFRASTRUCTURE



State Funding. WI sets aside state funding to help districts provide academic and career planning services to students in grades 6 to 12. The state also uses Perkins V funds to expand career exploration and awareness of CTE in middle and high school.

Academic & Career Planning Guidance. Wisconsin has a guide for districts to help develop their Academic & Career Planning (ACP) programs. The state also has a webpage with additional resources to implement this requirement.

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





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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	The state's leadership will be publishing a set of WI Career Readiness Standards in 2024 that includes learning priorities for grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI <u>code</u> defines career exploration at the middle school grade levels as understanding the continuum of careers across work environments, duties, and responsibilities and how a student's interests and skills relate to those careers. Career exploration may include work-based learning experiences and career research identifying personal preferences about occupations and careers students may pursue.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI statutes require that school boards develop an <u>Education for Employment Program</u> . The program must include career exploration at the middle school grade levels, including understanding the continuum of careers across work environments, duties, and responsibilities and how a student's interests and skills relate to those careers. School boards must also provide <u>academic and career planning (ACP) services</u> to students in grades 6-12, maintain related IT and software, and offer guidance, training, and technical assistance to district staff for effective implementation. Statutes also require school districts to provide <u>computer software</u> to be used statewide to provide ACP services to pupils in grades 6-12.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, <u>WI's Perkins V Plan</u> outlines how the state will use Perkins V to support CTE programming and career pathways and continue to expand career exploration and awareness of CTE in middle school.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI code requires students in grades 6-12 to develop an <u>ACP</u> , a comprehensive plan developed and maintained by the student that includes their academic, career, personal, and social goals and how they will achieve them both before and after high school graduation.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While WI has some recognition and awards programs in place, none specifically address middle school career exploration.



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Category	Status	Description
Funding Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI sets aside <u>state funding</u> to help districts provide academic and career planning services to students in grades 6 to 12. The state also uses <u>Perkins V funds</u> to support CTE programming and career pathways and continues to expand career exploration and awareness of CTE in middle and high school.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI provides training and technical assistance resources specific to middle school career exploration in the <u>WISELearn Career Readiness Hub</u> .
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI has a <u>guide for districts</u> to help develop their ACP programs. The state also has a <u>webpage with additional resources</u> to implement this requirement.
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI collects data on middle school career exploration through the Xello platform for grades 6-12 that is made available to all public school districts in the state
CTSOs Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WI <u>supports CTSOs</u> , four of which have middle school chapters: FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, and HOSA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	<u>Junior Achievement of Wisconsin</u> offers programming to help facilitate middle school career exploration. The <u>Inspire Wisconsin Network's</u> mission is to provide all students in WI with meaningful career-based learning experiences and employers with the opportunity to support the cultivation of the next generation of talent. <u>Madison College</u> and <u>Fox Valley Technical College</u> offer career exploration camps for middle school students.