



WYOMING

★ State Highlight

Grant Opportunities. Wyoming allocates Perkins V dollars as grant opportunities to support the professional development of career and academic counselors and increase students' access to work-based learning experiences.



VISION



State Definition. Wyoming's [Work-based Learning \(WBL\) guide](#) defines career exploration as student-driven experiences with professionals that allow students to learn about specific areas of interest based on inventories/assessments.

Perkins V Plan. Wyoming's [Perkins V Plan](#) outlines a strategy to develop career exploration in grades 5-8 as part of their larger career advisement and development efforts.

Wyoming has yet to codify the definition of career exploration, commit dollars, or coordinate across agencies on career exploration.



POLICY



Career and Vocational Education Standards. Wyoming's [career and vocational education content and performance standards](#) require schools and districts to promote career development and readiness, ensuring students demonstrate career planning and employability skills.

WY has yet to connect career exploration requirements to high school or formally include middle school career exploration in state or federal accountability systems.



INFRASTRUCTURE



Work-Based Learning Guide. Wyoming has a [Work-Based Learning Guide](#) to support work-based learning experiences, including career exploration, for all learners.

Perkins V Funding. Wyoming sets aside Perkins V dollars as grant opportunities to offer professional development for career guidance and academic counselors and provide work-based learning experiences for students.

Wyoming has yet to provide dynamic training opportunities to staff related to middle school career exploration or incorporate these activities into their data collection processes.





WYOMING • 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	WY's Perkins V Plan outlines the DOE's Strategic Plan, which has a strategy to develop career exploration in grades 5-8 as part of their larger career advisement and development efforts.
Career Exploration Definition Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WY's WBL guide defines career exploration as student-driven experiences with professionals that allow students to learn about specific areas of interest based on inventories/assessments.
Advocacy Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WY does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.



WYOMING • POLICY

Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WY's career and vocational education content and performance standards require schools and districts to promote career development and readiness, ensuring students demonstrate career planning and employability skills.
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	WY does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, WY's Perkins V Plan outlines middle school career exploration as part of its CTE Delivery Model.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While WY has CTE standards 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	WY offers Perkins V-funded grant opportunities for initiatives to help professional development for career guidance and academic counselors and provide work-based learning experiences for students.



WYOMING • 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	WY does set aside Perkins V dollars as grant opportunities to offer professional development for career guidance and academic counselors and provide work-based learning experiences for students.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While WY 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	WY has a WBL guide to support work-based learning experiences, including career exploration, 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	WY supports CTSOs , four of which have middle school participation: FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, and SkillsUSA.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	Wyoming Virtual Academy provides career and college prep resources to help students with their career planning. Central Wyoming College hosts career exploration events for middle school students.