Education Building Block Guide
for the Regional Education & Training Pathway

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to share employer vetted guidance on academic and technical skills needed for success in a specific Regional Career Pathway (RCP).

Education Building Blocks are founded on academic standards developed by the Department of Public Instruction. With a robust process in place to develop and revise learning standards, employer and industry partners from State and Regional Career Pathway Teams provide input during regular, formal updates to academic standards related to their industry.

Some Education Building Blocks are related to a specific RCP. Other Education Building Blocks apply across all RCPs. As educators create and implement Career Pathway programs based on RCPs, the goal is to integrate the Education Building Blocks across all the components of the High School Career Pathway.

Education Building Blocks:

Block One: Employability Skill Standards

Block Two: Digital Literacy Skill Standards

Block Three: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Standards related to the RCP

Block Four: Relevant Academic Competencies

Block Five: Emerging Trends related to the RCP

High School Career Pathway Components:

- Sequence of CTE Courses
- Work-based Learning
- College Credit Opportunities
- Industry-recognized Credentials
- Career and Technical Student Organizations

How to Use this Guide

School districts should use this guide when building new or updating existing Career Pathway programs related to this Regional Career Pathway. Here are a few of the ways district could use this guide:

Develop and Improve Curriculum

- Make decisions about which courses to offer and what content should be included in your career pathway courses
- Provide consistency with standards-based grading and help develop benchmarks
- Help educators understand how multiple sets of standards can align together rather than looking at each set of standards individually
- Create a curriculum map to see where standards related to this Regional Career Pathway show up across your district's career pathway program.

Prepare Your Students for Success

- Ensure your career pathway program will help students develop the skills and attributes employers are looking for in prospective job candidates
- Make educators and students aware of the emerging trends that will affect the future of this Regional Career Pathway
- Share this guide with Curriculum and Instruction Directors, Teachers, and Counselors as a springboard for reflection and discussion about how your district is preparing students for success in this Regional Career Pathway.

Encourage Collaboration

- Share this guide with employers to identify gaps and brainstorm how you can work together to improve outcomes for students pursuing this Regional Career Pathway
- Develop a pipeline for your career pathway program by working with elementary and middle school educators to integrate related career awareness and exploration experiences through all grade levels
- Help high school educators understand how to make the connections between their content and this Regional Career Pathway. Encourage collaboration between CTE and non-CTE teachers.

Download the Crosswalk Worksheet for this Regional Career Pathway so that you can map out where the standards related to each education building block show up in your pathway program.

The Connection Between Career Pathways and Courses

Integrating career pathways into all courses can help build relevance to academic subjects by helping to answer the question "Why do I need to know this?" Here are suggestions on how educators can incorporate Regional Career Pathways in elementary, middle, and high school learning environments. This allows academic and career planning activities and career-based learning experiences to be directly integrated into the classroom. To learn more about career-based learning experiences, visit the DPI Work-Based Learning webpage and specifically check out the "Wisconsin Guide to Implementing Career-based Learning Experiences."

In **elementary and middle school,** classroom teachers can help students understand the World of Work through Academic and Career Planning (ACP) activities and Career-based Learning Experiences (CBLEs) such as:

- Career-related games, stories or other activities
- Xello and other online career exploration tools
- Career-related projects
- Career-related volunteering or service learning
- Career fairs
- Classroom speakers
- Company tours.

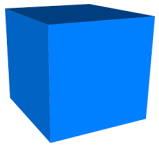
In **middle and high school**, Academic and Career Planning (ACP) activities and Career-based Learning Experiences (CBLEs) should focus on exploring specific careers related to this Regional Career Pathway, as well as developing job search skills and employability skills. Therefore, in addition to the ACP activities and CBLEs listed above, classroom teachers are encouraged to add:

- Job shadows
- Informational interviews
- Career mentoring
- Simulated worksites
- School-based enterprises
- Student entrepreneurial experiences.

Finally, it is very important for educators to learn more about this Regional Career Pathway and/or work with employers to help build real world relevance into the curriculum. Classroom teachers, counselors, school and district administrators, and school board members can do this through:

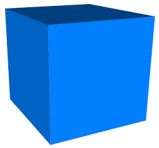
- Educator shadows or visits
- Educator externships
- Inviting employers to consult on curriculum or participate as an advisory board member.

Education Building Blocks for the Education & Training Pathway



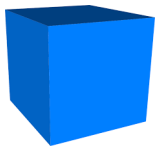
Block One: Employability Skills Standards

Employability Skills are a foundation for all Career Pathways. Don't let the name fool you, these skills can and should be developed in ALL the High School Career Pathway components, not just in work-based learning experiences.



Block Two: Digital Literacy Skill Standards

Similar to Employability Skills, Digital Literacy is essential for just about any job in the 21st century.



Block Three: Family and Consumer Sciences Standards (see Early Childhood Education and Human Development Standards).

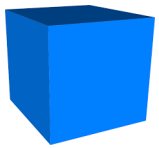
In addition to the Family and Consumer Sciences Standards, we encourage students to explore content areas that they may specialize in. In particular, CTE courses are a great way to explore areas that a future educator may want to teach in. Wisconsin's Career and Technical Standards will catapult student readiness for this Regional Career Pathway. Some common CTE courses include (but not limited to):

Intro to Education *
Foundations of Teacher Education (practicum) *
Early Childhood Development or Education
Nutrition
Family Studies
WIAA Referee *

* Does not need to be taught by a CTE teacher

Students are also encouraged to take courses related to business and digital technology.

In addition, students may take courses related to the discipline they are interested in teaching or training. There are also CTSOs that may relate to the discipline students are interested in, such as HOSA, SkillsUSA, DECA, FBLA, and FFA.



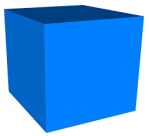
Block Four: Relevant Academic Competencies

There are many other high school courses that help prepare a student for this pathway, in addition to the sequence of Career and Technical Education Courses. Educators can use this chart when considering which "Additional High School Courses" to list on their district pathway map. While the coursework listed when planning to enroll in an Associate's Degree program may vary from the coursework listed for a Bachelor Degree program, this should not be the primary deciding factor for students as both options will continue to be available to all students. Students will learn more and be better prepared for post-secondary options by taking courses in which they are deeply engaged and can see how the instruction is relevant to their future.

Students may also want to consider taking listed courses as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or dual enrollment where available.

High School Courses* for this Career Pathway			
	High school courses for students planning to enroll in a Technical Degree Program	**High school courses for students planning to enroll in a Bachelor Degree Program**	**Additional Courses to Consider and/or links to related standards**
Math	Algebra	Algebra 2 Statistics	Integrated Mathematics Statistics or Discrete Mathematics
Science		Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science/Physics	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Earth and Space Science when available.
English	Composition Technical Writing	Composition Communications Debate or Public Speaking Practical or Technical Writing	English Language Development Standards Participation in Debate and/or Forensics Resume writing and interviewing skills
Social Science	Psychology Sociology	Psychology Sociology Economics	
Language, Intercultural & Global Competence	Any world language course World History Ethnic/Cultural Studies		Four year sequence of any world language (or dual language) courses. Recommend innovation to provide access to a diversity of languages. Preparation includes courses leading to state-certified Seal of Biliteracy & Certificate of Global Competence credentials.
Arts- Art and Design, Dance, Music, and Theatre	Drama/Theater, Music, Visual Arts		

* In addition to traditional high school courses, the courses in this table could also be taken at the honors, AP, IB, or dual enrollment level, when available.



Block Five: Emerging Trends Related to this Regional Career Pathway

Students need to be aware of the trends related to this pathway in order to understand how the industry is evolving. Educators can prepare students for success in this pathway by highlighting these emerging trends that Wisconsin employers have shared with us.

Governance, Regulatory, and Legal Trends

- There are many pathways that result in educator license(s), both traditional and nontraditional
- Understand education policies and how they are created and changed. Examples may include:
    - Higher Learning Commission accreditation requirements to teach dual enrollment courses
    - Setting Tuition Rates
- Understanding licensing options and requirements
- Compliance and expansion of Early Childhood Education (ECE).

Global and Cultural Trends

- Increasing importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in education
- Addressing achievement and opportunity gaps
- Growing number of English Learners, particularly in rural areas
- Disparity in access to high quality early childhood care (ECE)
- Increasing focus on dual enrollment opportunities in all discipline areas
- Importance of social and emotional learning and mental health or wellness.
- Linguistic diversity in our workplaces, communities, and world
- Intercultural and international interdependence

Technology Trends

- Digital Divide: inequity in access to digital resources
- Proliferation of virtual classrooms and training - benefits and limitations
- Virtual learning platforms and learning management systems
- Increased collaboration between educators, students and families through technology
- Cybersecurity considerations and needs.

Evidence-based Practices

- Student success and equity
- Move to competency-based learning/records (K12 and IHE)
- Personalization of learning
- Developing a positive a culture and climate for learning
- More focus on assessment of the learning cycle (ECE) - child learning outcomes
- Importance of play and social emotional development (ECE)
- Partnering and empowering families in the educational process

- Applied and experiential learning opportunities
- College, Career, and Life Readiness and Indicators
- Program Return on Investment (ROI)
- Evaluation and data collection and data analysis
- Exit portfolios
- Grow your own educator programs.
- Equity-centered effectiveness data collection, analysis and reporting

Articles on Emerging Trends for this Regional Career Pathway

- Ten Big Ideas in Education 2020
- Five trends of education and technology in a sustainable future
- Afterschool as a Teacher Pathway