

## GLOSSARY

### **Programs of Study**

A program adopted and offered by local educational agencies and postsecondary institutions as an option to students (and their parents as appropriate) when planning for and completing future coursework. A program of study incorporates secondary and postsecondary education elements, including coherent, rigorous, and relevant content aligned with challenging academic standards in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education. A program of study may include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits; and lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level or an associate or baccalaureate degree. The Program of Study leads to the development of a Personal Plan of Study.

### **Personal Plan of Study**

A student's scope and sequence of coursework and co-curricular experiences based upon chosen educational and career goals. Personal plans of study are arranged according to secondary graduation requirements and postsecondary admissions requirements. The foundation of the personal plan of study is the school's implementation of a *program of study*. To ensure students make a successful transition to high school and a positive postsecondary experience, it is important for them to develop a rigorous and relevant personal plan of study based on their interests and abilities. The personal plan of study includes a map of coursework, graduation requirements, and relevant work-based learning experiences. The plan reflects student movement toward a chosen career revolving around career pathways and/or clusters. A plan of study is developed cooperatively between counselors, educators, students, and parents. It should be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary to reflect any changes in a student's career plan.

**Career Clusters-** An organizing framework that groups occupations and careers based on common knowledge and skills. The framework assists educators in tailoring coursework and work experience around specific occupational groups that offer students core academics as well as activities that match their skills and interests. Career Clusters provide depth to Missouri's six Career Paths. Missouri has adopted the U.S. Department of Education's 16 Career clusters.

**Career Pathways-** Listing of occupations that share advanced technical skills and/or common roles within a Career Cluster. Career pathways are an area of study within the 16 Career Clusters. The U.S. Department of Education has identified 81 career pathways.

**Clusters As A Curriculum Framework-** What students must know and be able to do in each career cluster content area. The cluster knowledge and skill statements, performance elements, and measurement criteria form the learner expectations and the focus for instruction for each student without rigidly prescribing the methods used to impart those knowledge and skills within the local curriculum.

**Knowledge and Skill Statements** are industry-validated statements that describe what learners/employees need to know and be able to do for career success within a Cluster and/or Pathway.

**Performance Elements** are the observable criteria by which the student will demonstrate the knowledge and skill.

**Measurement Criteria** are the specifications by which the performance elements will be evaluated.

**Transitions to postsecondary education or to work-** Successful student transitions are a specific school improvement process that requires schools to be accountable for every student. It is only by being accountable to every individual student that schools can be accountable to the public trust, to our business community, to our parents, to our citizens, and for the tax dollars that are spent on education. Transitions is the only standard that truly protects the rights of individual young people to the property right called an education, and it is a major step toward meeting the goal of mandatory education.