

About the Missouri Career Pathways Network

More than half of young Americans reach their mid-twenties without the skills and credentials needed for success in today's demanding economy. Yet 65% of jobs, especially in high demand STEM fields, will require postsecondary credentials by 2020. In 2012, Jobs for the Future (JFF) and the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), in collaboration with states and regions, launched the Pathways to Prosperity Network to re-envision how our education system—from K-12 through college—partners with employers and prepares our young people for success. Missouri was one of twelve states selected to participate in this national initiative designed to build career pathways for secondary students. In 2017 Missouri transitioned into the Missouri Career Pathways Network to ensure that many more youth complete high school, attain postsecondary credentials with currency in the labor market, and launch careers while leaving open the prospect of further education.

The Pathways Vision

All Missouri Students will:

1. Graduate from high school success ready with an individual career and academic plan (ICAP) and work-based learning experience,
2. Attain a credential of certification with value in the regional and global labor market(s), and
3. Launch a career in an occupation earning a family living wage with opportunity to advance to higher levels of education and employment.

Career Pathways Defined

According to the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor the definition for a career pathways approach is:

...a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure industry-relevant certification and obtain employment within an occupational area and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment in that area.¹

¹U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor, "Joint Career Pathways Letter," April 4, 2012. Website:
<http://www2.ed.gov/news/newsletters/ovaconnection/2012/04122012.html>.

Career Pathways core elements include:

- **Aligned, connected programs:** A sequence of educational programs that lead to increasingly advanced credentials (for example, a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, industry-recognized certificates, and postsecondary degrees), and that are coordinated by aligning learning expectations, curricula, and institutional links.
- **Multiple entry and exit points:** Transparent and easy-to-navigate on- and off-ramps to education and work that enable individuals to earn credentials that “stack” or “roll up” to recognized high school and postsecondary credentials.
- **Focus on careers and employer engagement:** Targeting high-growth sectors and occupations, encouraging employers to participate in curriculum and program design and instruction, and providing work-based learning experiences.
- **Support services that promote student progress and completion:** Academic and other supports for underprepared individuals, including curricular attention to mastering “soft skills,” quality instruction that integrates career or technical skills and academic learning, guidance and peer support for educational and career decisions, and financial aid when necessary.

Our Services

Building a Missouri Career Pathway system that includes education, employers, and post-secondary partners.

- Assisting School Districts in identifying high demand careers in their region
- Connecting employers with educators
- Supporting districts in providing career awareness, exploration, and preparation for all students
- Advocating for all students to have a viable individual career and academic plan (ICAP)
- Promoting work-based learning experiences for students
- Advising school districts regarding programs of study development
- Connecting educators with post-secondary programs that prepare students for careers
- Coordinating and facilitating teacher externships which provide opportunities for first-hand exposure to business/industry within a career pathway
- Facilitating workshops and training

For more information please contact:

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