

Policy on Career Advising

Now more than ever, students need to see a connection between what they are learning in the classroom and their future careers. Ohio law requires all districts to adopt a local policy on career advising beginning the 2015-2016 school year. This guidance document includes two model policies that districts may customize for their use. These models give districts the flexibility to adopt and implement policies that reflect local needs and resources.

Experts generally describe career advising as an integrated process that helps students understand how their personal interests, strengths and values might predict satisfaction and success in school and related career fields, as well as how to tie these interests and strengths to their academic and career goals. Ohio students must have access to a comprehensive menu of resources and support to prepare for their future success. Through relevant classroom instruction, career-related learning experiences, and consistent counseling and advising, students can discover their interests and explore academic and career pathway options.

Model Career Advising Policy:

This policy on career advising is reviewed at least once every two years and made available to students, parents, guardians and custodians, local post-secondary institutions and district residents. The policy is posted in a prominent location on the district's website.

The district's plan for career advising includes, providing:

1. Grade-level examples that link students' schoolwork to one or more career fields by implementing the Career Connections Learning Strategies offered by the Ohio Department of Education.
2. Career advising to students in grades 6-12,
3. Additional interventions and career advising for students who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school. These include:
 - a. Identifying students who are at risk of dropping out of school using a local, research-based method with input from teachers, school counselors and other appropriate school staff.
 - b. Developing a Student Success Plan for each at-risk student that addresses both the student's academic and career pathway to successful graduation and the role of career-technical education, competency-based education and experiential learning, when appropriate.
 - i. Before a district develops a pupil's Student Success Plan, district staff will invite the student's parent, guardian or custodian to assist. If that adult does not participate in the plan development, the district will provide the adult a copy of the plan, a statement of the importance of a high school diploma and a listing of the pathways to graduation available to the student.
4. Training for employees on how to advise students on career pathways, including use of the tools available in OhioMeansJobs K-12 and other online sources provided by the district.
5. Multiple academic and career pathways through high school that students may choose to earn a high school diploma, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and postsecondary course credit through College Credit Plus.
6. Information on courses that can award students both traditional academic and career-technical credit including, but not limited to, the District's policy on credit flexibility and instructions for students to access the educational option.
7. Documentation on career advising for each student and student's parent, guardian or custodian to review, as well as schools that the student may attend in the future. These include activities that support the student's academic, career and social/emotional development.
8. The supports necessary for students to successfully transition from high school to their postsecondary destinations, including interventions and services necessary for students who need remediation in mathematics and English language arts.