

Career Exploration, Experience & Preparedness

Vision for Students:

- CPS-CCC students have the information, tools, and guidance necessary to cultivate initial career vision and develop concrete postsecondary plans to help them achieve their vision.
- CPS-CCC students develop workforce competencies and engage in a coherent progression of work-based learning (WBL) experiences, beginning in middle school and continuing through CCC completion/transfer; ideally, culminating in an internship and/or apprenticeship.

The Need:

Students who enter a postsecondary program with a clear goal in mind—a major and a career path they want to pursue—are more likely to earn a credential. Career exploration activities that begin in middle school and continue into postsecondary studies can help students achieve this clarity by enabling them to try on different careers and explore possibilities for their future. Today, CPS counselors have limited capacity and experience advising students on careers, and only half of CPS students in grades 6-10 complete career exploration tasks in the district’s technology platform, Naviance. At the same time, more intensive work-based learning, such as internships and apprenticeships with Chicago employers, is available to just a small fraction of CPS and CCC students. Most students do not have consistent opportunities to learn and practice workforce competencies—such as communication in a professional setting and collaboration in teams—that Chicago employers look for in their employees.

Chicago Roadmap

5

YEAR
GOALS

100%

of CPS CTE students
earn at least one
work-based learning
experience by high
school graduation

1,000

CPS & CCC
students complete
an apprenticeship

ECONOMIC MOBILITY OUTCOME GOALS—METRICS AND TARGETS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- % of CPS-CCC graduates/transferees employed by Age 25
- % of CPS-CCC graduates employed at “living wage” by Age 25
- CPS-CCC graduates who are found working in Illinois over time, from one to five years following graduation

Strategies, Timeline & FY21 Priorities

Objective	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22	SY 22-23	SY 23-24	FY21 Objectives
Re-envision career and postsecondary exploration		Develop a seamless continuum of CPS-CCC work-based learning across grades 6-14 Develop a seamless continuum of CPS-CCC work-based learning (WBL) from grades 6-14 that outlines task progression and can be incorporated into school year and day.				Align CPS 6-12 continuum to CCC WBL options for CTE programs.
		Create a resource with information about opportunities at each City College to explore each career interest Create a resource for high school students with information about opportunities at each high City College campus to explore different career interests.				Develop CCC-wide information and complete deep dives into campus specific programs to help students make informed decisions. Consider developing virtually, such as through videos, as well as on paper.
Strategically increase supply of high-quality work-based learning across Chicago that includes CTE		Expand WBL opportunities to non-CTE and middle grades students in CPS Expand WBL opportunities for non-CTE HS students and students in grades 6-8 based on the 6-14 WBL continuum.				Begin planning for high school (planning for middle grades beginning in 2021-22).
		Increase supply and quality of WBL in focus pathway domains, including Options schools and diverse learners Strategically increase supply and quality of WBL in focus pathway domains based on the 6-14 WBL continuum, with a focus on options schools and diverse learners.				Begin planning; joint employer engagement and sourcing.
		Increase youth apprenticeships through Career Launch Increase youth apprenticeships across the City through the Career Launch program.				Align with mayor's office goals for Career Launch.

ASSOCIATED BUDGET ITEMS

CPS:

- Career Launch Chicago
- Non-CTE WBL
- Middle School WBL
- City-wide program scaling & systematizing
- Employer/industry expert support
- College and Career Equity Specialists (6)
- Counseling Specialists

CCC:

- Workforce Pathway Leads (7)
- Equity Leads (7)
- CCC/CPS DAC Lead (1)