



PATHWAY **2** CAREERS



## What Career Exploration Looks Like in Any School

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Flexible ways schools support career exploration without changing schedules or adding programs

# Practical ways educators use P2C to support career readiness



Career exploration shouldn't be confined to a single lesson or department. When done well, it becomes visible, relevant, and ongoing—helping students understand their postsecondary options and build confidence over time.

P2C Career Explorer equips teachers and counselors with shared tools and curriculum to make that vision a reality.

This resource outlines practical ways to cultivate a coordinated, schoolwide culture of career reflection, planning, and readiness across grades and courses.

**15%**

Recent research shows that students who participate in career exploration and other career-connected learning experiences are **10-15 percentage points more likely to be engaged** in school than students who do not.

At P2C, we believe that when education becomes relevant, learners **fully** engage.



# FLEXIBLE BY DESIGN

Rather than a one-size-fits all model, P2C Career Explorer adapts to:

- Traditional and block schedules
- Full-period lessons or shorter segments
- Weekly instruction or quarterly projects
- Small or whole-group settings

Schools may begin with a single course or advisory program and expand over time.

Career Explorer adapts to your schedule, staffing, and goals—all while providing a consistent structure for career exploration.



**CAREER  
EXPLORER**



# 1. Middle School and Early Exploration Settings

## Introducing Career Clusters and Interests

In many schools serving middle grades, P2C Career Explorer is used to introduce foundational career awareness.

### Who leads it

Counselors, advisory teachers, and media specialists (librarians)

### How often

Monthly lessons, bi-weekly sessions, or small-group meetings across multiple sessions

### Students may

- Explore interest areas and career clusters
- Research occupations aligned to their interests
- Bookmark careers they want to learn more about
- Reflect on what they are discovering

Media specialists often support exploration by spotlighting career clusters and encouraging independent research.

Activities are designed to fit traditional or block schedules and can be split across multiple sessions.



### What students gain

Early awareness of career possibilities and confidence navigating career information



## 2.

## Dedicated Career Readiness Courses

### Structured, In-Depth Exploration

#### Who leads it

Career readiness teachers, counselors, and CTE teachers

#### How often

Weekly instruction; semester-long research projects

In schools offering a career readiness or exploration course, P2C Career Explorer becomes the backbone of instruction.

Across a semester or year, students:

- Explore one career cluster at a time
- Research related occupations
- Identify high-value careers using workforce data
- Complete a career research project
- Upload reflections, resumes, and artifacts to their My Career Page (digital portfolio)

Lessons typically fit within a standard class period (60–90 minutes) and may be split across multiple days.



#### What students gain

Clearer career interests, researched options, and documented evidence of learning

## 3. Senior Seminar or Capstone Project Strengthening Career Planning Before Graduation

### Who leads it

Counselors, senior seminar teachers, and career instructors

### How often

Term-based projects (semester, trimester, or quarter)

In transition-focused courses, Career Explorer supports deeper reflection and planning.

### Students May:

- Revisit and refine career goals
- Compare occupations using workforce and wage data
- Research postsecondary pathways
- Upload reflections, resumes, and artifacts to their My Career Page (digital portfolio)
- Complete capstone-style career research projects

This implementation model reinforces readiness while helping students articulate their next steps.



### What students gain

A clearer plan for their postsecondary pathway and portfolio materials that reflect their preparation

## 4.

## Embedded in Academic and CTE Classrooms

### Connecting Content to Careers

#### Who leads it

Content-area teachers and CTE instructors

#### How often

Per unit, bi-weekly mini-lessons, or project-based integration

Career Explorer can be integrated directly into core subjects and CTE programs.

Examples include:

- English classes connecting narrative or argumentative writing to career research
- Math classes linking geometry or data analysis to related occupations
- Science classes exploring careers connected to biology or other disciplines
- CTE programs embedding employability skills and reflecting on growth
- Construction or technical courses using workforce data to explore high-demand careers

Lessons may be delivered as full-class sessions or shorter 20–30 minute segments.

Students research careers, bookmark occupations of interest, analyze workforce data, and reflect on skill development.



#### What students gain

A clearer understanding of how classroom skills and academic concepts apply beyond school



## 5. Advisory and Counseling Programs

### Ongoing Reflection and Exploration

#### Who leads it

School counselors and advisory teachers

#### How often

Weekly, bi-weekly, quarterly, or small-group sessions

Career Explorer fits naturally into advisory periods and counseling programs.

#### Educators May:

- Group students by shared interests
- Facilitate discussions around career clusters
- Guide students in researching occupations
- Compare career options using wage and growth data
- Support reflection and portfolio uploads

Lessons can be delivered in full 60–90 minute sessions or divided into shorter segments across advisory periods.



#### What students gain

An intentional, supportive space to explore interests and begin connecting personal interests to real opportunities

## 6. School-Wide, Multi-Role Implementation

### Creating a culture of Career-Connected Learning

Many schools use Career Explorer across multiple roles rather than in a single course. This coordinated approach ensures that career development is visible and ongoing, not isolated to one class.

Typical collaboration includes:

#### Counselors

- Lead small-group or classroom lessons
- Guide reflection and goal-setting
- Support portfolio development

#### Career and CTE Teachers

- Deliver structured career exploration
- Embed employability skill development
- Connect projects to workforce demand

#### Academic Teachers

- Reinforce career connections within core subjects

#### Advisory and Support Staff

- Facilitate discussions and short exploration activities

#### Media Specialists

- Promote cluster-focused research and independent exploration



#### What students gain

When multiple roles reinforce career exploration, students experience career readiness as a consistent, connected part of their learning.





## Give learners the career exploration experiences they deserve!

Contact us to discover and implement the model that works best for your students and staff.

Contact us

