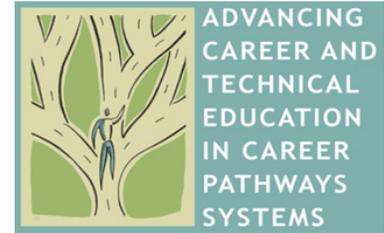


College & Career Pathways in Minnesota

A Cross-Agency Initiative to Promote Education and Workforce Development



Achieving the vision of a comprehensive and integrated education and workforce development system in Minnesota requires interconnecting state education, employment training, and social service agencies to promote coordination and efficiency. Systems must be flexible to allow for individuals' entry and exit at multiple points and ages, and aligned so that students make seamless transitions across educational levels and programs. State employers and labor partners also must be engaged to ensure that Minnesotans attain the industry-recognized certificates, credentials, and degrees that position Minnesota to compete in a global environment.

Achieving the Vision Advancing Career Technical Education in Career Pathway Systems

- » Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
- » Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development
- » Governor's Workforce Development Council
- » Minnesota Workforce Council Association
- » Minnesota Department of Human Services
- » Minnesota Department of Corrections
- » Minnesota Department of Education
- » United Way, Greater Twin Cities

In January 2013 the U.S. Department of Education awarded Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development three-years of technical assistance to support career pathway system alignment. A cross-agency leadership team has been assembled with representation from across the state's public K-12, postsecondary, adult education and workforce development offices, and employer and stakeholder groups committed to improving Minnesota's education and economic climate.

Representatives from Rochester Public Schools, Rochester Community and Technical College, Workforce Development, Inc., Rochester Adult Basic Education, Mayo Clinic, and Bowman Tool have been recruited as local partners.

Team members are currently working across departments and agencies in an unprecedented effort to strengthen existing career pathways resources and integrate state educational, employment training, and human service offerings. This effort addresses the following elements:

Strengthening cross-system partnerships to align program services and establish policy and legislation to support statewide systems alignment.

Redesigning communications strategies to engage employers in key state industries, building on state Itasca Study pilots underway and Rochester area initiatives to develop career pathways.

Building cross-system data and accountability systems to motivate accountability and program improvement, utilizing the framework from the Alliance for Quality in Career Pathways and information available from SLDS, WDQI and other initiatives in Minnesota.

The cross-agency, state leadership team is collaborating to promote a comprehensive and unified career pathway system. Team members serve on numerous statewide career pathways (see appendix) to ensure project work coordinates with other, ongoing state efforts. The goal is to coordinate with Minnesota Career Pathway work underway to leverage existing resources and coordinate resource use to achieve system sustainability. The team's work should ensure that all Minnesotans can access high quality, coordinated education and training services so that they can secure gainful employment and the skills that will prepare them for successful advancement along their career pathways.



Governor Mark Dayton has set a vision for a prosperous Minnesota with world-class talent—one that engages students, workers, legislators, educators and businesses—bringing All Hands on Deck¹ to meet the call of tomorrow's economy.

Career Pathway Work Underway in Minnesota

Minnesota is working on many fronts to create a comprehensive career pathway system for youth and adults through aligned workforce development and education services.

Advancing CTE in Career Pathways

OVAE technical assistance initiative – through September 2015

Career and College Readiness Collaborative

(MDE, DEED, MnSCU and community partners) to help youth explore college and career interests and develop a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment-- ongoing.

Career Pathways and Technical Education Task Force

MDE, Office of College and Career Success, Report due to the MN Legislature, February 15, 2014.

Charting the Future

Report of the Strategic Workgroup's recommendations to increase access, affordability, excellence, and service by forging deeper collaborations among our colleges and universities to maximize our collective strengths, resources, and the talents of our faculty and staff. MnSCU Board of Trustees, November 2013.

Minnesota Technical Skill Assessments

Core competencies (secondary and postsecondary) and state approved technical skill assessments validated by business and industry in US Department of Education and Department of Labor Career Pathways and Clusters; completion by August 2014.

Common Core Standards

(secondary, CTE, ABE) National Report "The State of Career Technical Education: an Analysis of State CTE Standards" released Oct 23, 2013.

Governors Workforce Development Council

Career Pathways Committee focus initially on definition/current work and then to policy development through March 2014.

Skills@Work

Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Governor's Workforce Development Council Campaign to address regional workforce needs and develop statewide policy recommendations to address state skill needs (2012-2013).

Labor Market Information

LMI Data Production Requirement legislation HF 729 Sec. 2 lines 63.19-64.18

Working Definitions

A **career pathway system in Minnesota** is defined as a statewide partnership of agencies, organizations, and employers/industry that provides leadership, coordination, and a supportive policy environment for local/regional/state career pathways systems and programs and that promotes the quality, scale, and sustainability of career pathways.

A **career pathway program in Minnesota** is defined as a series of connected education and/or training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure industry relevant certificates or recognized credentials and obtain employment within an occupational area and advance to higher levels of future education and employment in that area.

For more information

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Minnesota
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¹All Hands on Deck: Fifteen Ideas for Strengthening Minnesota's Workforce, 2012 Governor's Workforce Development Council www.gwdc.org