# Tools for Traveling the Work-Based Learning Continuum

As students learn about different careers, they discover their strengths, interests, and passions. Students draw on the tools they develop in the early stages of their academic career throughout their journey along the continuum.

## Grades Pre-K–3
- Interest surveys
- Diverse classroom career activities
- Job talks from a variety of employers

**Lower elementary:** Teachers provide most of the work-based learning instruction, including collaborating with counselors and employers to coordinate career learning experiences.

**I know the different careers that serve my community, and some of the careers interest me. I’m learning how school prepares me for work.**

## Grades 4
- Career fairs
- Workplace tours

## Grade 5
- Structured career exploration lessons
- Job shadows
- Informational interviews

**Upper elementary:** Teachers are still students’ main point of contact for work-based learning experiences, but schools and counselors also work with employers to offer more in-depth opportunities to explore careers.

**I get to explore different careers in different ways and can make educational plans for the ones that interest me the most.**

## Grades 7–8
- School-based enterprises
- Counseling

**Middle school:** Students begin to have more autonomy over their choices and exposure to certain careers. Teachers and counselors facilitate, guide, and encourage students to explore a range of options.

## Grade 9
- Simulated work-based learning
- Career and technical education

**Early high school:** Students choose from a menu of work-based learning options curated by teachers, counselors, and employers.

## Grade 10
- Job-seeking training

**Late high school and postsecondary:** Teachers offer courses aligned with employers’ needs. Employers offer internships that prepare students for specific careers. Students participate in counseling.

**I participate in programs to prepare for the career paths that interest me, and I gain experience in those career paths through work-based learning opportunities.**

## Career Seeking and Advancement
- Job applications
- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- Industry-mentored capstone projects
- Job training
- Four-year college degree programs
- Military service and training
- Two-year college job certificate programs

**Postsecondary:**
- Job experience
- Short-term career training programs
- Two-year college job certificate programs

**I continue to fine-tune my career and postsecondary education plans. I know how to align my career plans to my financial and personal life goals. I am building a resume based on excellent job performance.**

## Division of College and Career Readiness

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