

ESCCO Career Pathways Audit

Purpose: The purpose of this audit is to assess the alignment of current programming, identify areas of strength, pinpoint barriers that hinder students from accessing opportunities, and explore new possibilities for both students and staff. This will ensure that all students are well-informed and have access to college and career pathways in in-demand career fields.

Phase 1: The ESC of Central Ohio team will work directly with a school district to conduct a comprehensive audit of the current college and career pathways. The focus will be on the potential creation of new pathways that align with in-demand jobs in the region.

Phase 2: The ESC of Central Ohio team will work directly with a school district to audit current career pathway programming and experiences. The focus will be on reviewing how all students understand the multitude of career fields available, as well as the academic requirements needed to succeed. Full reports will be generated after each phase of the audit for the school district's administration.

Components of the Audit: There will be three components of the audit conducted by the ESCCO College and Career Team: Understanding, Exploration, and Possibilities. Each component is outlined, and a full implementation timeline will be provided prior to starting the process. Please note that this is a draft plan, and input and adjustments will be made to meet the needs of the school district.

- 1. Understanding:** A desktop audit of the current program of study, curricular standards, master schedule, website, and related information on pathways, workforce development, current student organizations, and industry credentials.
- 2. Exploration:** The ESC of Central Ohio will collaborate with the school district to review both qualitative and quantitative data related to students' skills and aptitudes for career pathways. The focus will be on how this data is utilized by stakeholders. Additionally, a series of focus groups (*including established groups such as PTO, student clubs, etc.*) will be convened to gain perspectives on current college and career pathways.
- 3. Possibilities:** Building on the Understanding and Exploration phases of the audit, recommendations will be drafted for the school district's administration. All recommendations will consider the overall goal of the audit and the resources available at the time of publishing the final report. Special attention will be given to the following areas:
 - **No New Funding:** What opportunities exist within current programming, equipment, and personnel to enhance all students' experience in interacting with the 16 career fields?
 - **Some Additional Funding:** What opportunities exist that, with limited funding, can enhance or establish a new program? (Examples of what funding could be used for include equipment, teacher training, and student transportation to businesses.)
 - **Full Funding of an FTE/Equipment:** What opportunities exist that require additional staffing, equipment, space, or funding for supplies and transportation to ensure programming success?

A final report will be issued to the school district for review and use in planning for the following school year and beyond.