**College and Career Curriculum Connections**

**One million Ohioans lack a high school diploma or GED. This number grows each year by 24,000 when current high school students disconnect and disengage from school.**

Research shows that a consistent factor in the reason for students dropping out of school is a lack of motivation due to the perceived irrelevance of school. Creating College and Career Ready Connections in your classroom may re-engage students who are thinking about dropping out and increase other students’ interest in staying in school as well. Resources in this section easily blend with Ohio’s New Learning Standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, fine arts, world languages, science, including technology, and are geared to college and career readiness.

**Ohio Resources for College and Career Planning** -resources for college and career planning are available only in Ohio and can be found at the following link:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Family-and-Community-Engagement/Getting-Involved-with-your-Child-s-Learning/Ohio-Resources-for-College-and-Career-Planning>

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**Curriculum Toolbox** - located on INFOhio and has many resources that support teachers and students in the preparation for college/careers:

<https://www.infohio.org/educators/eptools/curriculum-toolbox>

**Career Connections Framework and Guides** -provides an overview to school districts for developing comprehensive plans. A school district Career Connections plan includes strategies across grades K-12 that prepare all students for their future successes. The guides offer grade-level strategies to educators, families and community members for connecting learning with careers:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections>

**Transition Planning Tool** - The Transition Planning Tool is designed as a resource for students, families, educators or others to use in making plans for the future of a student with a disability. Key questions prompt thinking about the elements of a comprehensive plan that can then be embedded in the student's IEP:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Secondary-Transition-Planning-for-Students-with-Di/Transition-Planning-Tool>

**Opportunities for early college coursework** are available in Ohio’s school districts. Whether the opportunities take the form of Early College High Schools, like the one in Youngstown, or whether students earn college credit through other Ohio programs, the tuition costs are paid and the challenge of college is more accessible to students who might not otherwise regard college as an option. Visit the link below for information on how instructional programs in Ohio incorporate college-level curriculum:

[*http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Career-and-College-Planning/College-Prep-and-Early-College-Programs-for-High-S*](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Career-and-College-Planning/College-Prep-and-Early-College-Programs-for-High-S)

The Ohio Department of Education is committed to expanding **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** programs order to incorporate high level math and science into K-12 curricula.

Visit ODE’s STEM website at:

[*http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/STEM*](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/STEM)

The effort to improve students’ access to STEM curriculum is conducted in conjunction with Ohio’s Office of Career-Technical Education, which includes **Project Lead the Way**. Over three hundred Ohio schools have Project Lead the Way programs including programs at the middle school and the elementary school level. For more information about Project Lead the Way and a list of the participating schools, click here: [h*ttp://www.pltwohio.org/schools\_participating.php*](http://www.pltwohio.org/schools_participating.php)

**Resources to Support Academic and Career Planning for Students**

*Resources to Support Academic and Career Planning for Students* provides MANY links to a variety of resources that support students in their academic and career planning.

Here’s the pdf:

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Development/2011-Resources-to-Support-Academic-and-Career-Planning_Students.pdf.aspx>

There’s also an educator’s version of *Resources to Support Academic and Career Planning for Students*.

Here’s the pdf:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Development/2011-Resources-to-Support-Academic-and-Career-Planning_Educators.pdf.aspx>