

Career Readiness: Building School/Career Networks



The following two practices from the REL Southeast infographic, [Preparing a Career-Ready Student](#), focus on how educators can help with teaching for career readiness and implementation of career-focused programs. They are aligned with Recommendation 3 from the What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide, [Preventing Dropout in Secondary Schools](#): Engage students by offering curricula and programs that connect schoolwork with college and career success and that improve students' capacity to manage challenges in and out of school. These practices are also aligned with Area II: Teaching and advising of the REL Southeast [Self-Study Guide for Career Readiness in Secondary Schools](#).

Encourage career days, work related experiences (role-playing or job shadowing), and visits to postsecondary campuses.

Host career days and offer opportunities to visit postsecondary campuses. Experts suggest that schools can invite community members who work in different fields to share their experiences in the workplace. Introducing students to these types of experiences encourages students to consider career and postsecondary options early. Schools can also expose students to college campuses by facilitating visits to college campuses that include discussions with admissions or financial aid officials.



Include work-based learning experiences such as internships, apprenticeships, and school-based enterprises.

Partner with local businesses to provide opportunities for work-related experience such as internships, simulated job interviews, or long-term employment. Schools can provide opportunities for students to explore the value of education by establishing agreements with local businesses to provide simulated (or real) job interviews, internships, or long-term employment. These opportunities would provide practical on-the-job experience and exposure to employability skills in a range of occupations. Examples could include paid positions, school credit for internships, or work experience with a classroom-based component.

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