

Important Definitions & Acronyms

Academic and Career Planning (ACP)

Academic and Career Planning, or ACP, is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post-secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills. This process, now required in secondary education, is defined by four stages:

1. Career Awareness (Know)
2. Career Exploration (Explore)
3. Career Planning (Plan)
4. Career Preparation (Go)

ACP encompasses both a process and a product. The process embedded in the school curriculum will actively engage students to develop an understanding of self, create a vision of the future, develop individual goals, and prepare a personal plan for achieving the vision and goals. The product documents and reflects students' coursework, learning and assessment results, post-secondary plans aligned to career goals & financial reality, and a record of college and career readiness skills.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

CTE programs prepare individuals for a wide range of careers that reflect the contemporary workplace. A high quality Career and Technical Education program consists of three main components to achieve college and career readiness: academic and technical skills, leadership through CTSOs, and work-based learning.

Career and Technical Education Program of Study

A Program of Study is a specific career pathway, defined by a local school/district partnership, which is a sequence of instruction based on recommended standards and knowledge and skills, consisting of coursework, co-curricular activities, worksite learning, service learning and other learning experiences including Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO). The sequence of instruction provides preparation for a career.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

CTSOs are co-curricular organizations that develop citizenship, technical, leadership, and teamwork skills essential for students who are preparing for the workforce and further education.

Career-based Learning Experiences (CBLEs)

CBLEs are the collective set of academic and career planning, business-connected experiences and opportunities that allow K12 students to participate in career awareness, career exploration and/or career development.

New Wisconsin Guide to Implementing Career-Based Learning Experiences to be released in fall 2020 at <https://dpi.wi.gov/acp/work-based-learning>

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins; CPV)

Perkins funding refers to a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs across the nation. The purpose of the Act is to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. On July 23, 2018, the U.S. Senate approved legislation to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The new law, The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V, for short), took effect on July 1, 2019.

College Credit Opportunities

College credit opportunities refer to options high school students have to earn college credit while still in high school. Often referred to as “Dual Enrollment” or “Dual Credit,” in Wisconsin, college credit opportunities can include Advanced Placement (AP) courses, International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, transcribed credit agreements, advanced standing agreements, Early College Credit Program, Start College Now Program and dual enrollment academies. Some college credit opportunities take place at the high school and some take place at the college or university.

Cooperative Education Service Agencies (CESAs)

CESAs serve educational needs in all areas of Wisconsin by acting as a link between school districts in their region and between school districts and the state. Cooperative Educational Service Agencies may facilitate communication and cooperation among all public and private schools, agencies, and organizations that provide services to pupils.

District RCP Map

An RCP map that has been customized to show students and families what the RCP looks like in a specific school district.

Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs)

An education- and work-related credential can be defined as a verification of an individual’s qualification or competence issued by a third party with the relevant authority to issue such credentials (U.S. Department of Labor, 2010). “Credentials have currency in two primary ways: they (1) help an individual find employment or advance in the workforce and/or (2) accelerate a student’s progression into and through postsecondary education and training.” (Credential Currency, Education Strategy Group)

Inspire

Inspire refers to a set of features that students can access through their ACP-Xello account that enables them to connect directly to employers in order to:

- Learn about Wisconsin companies that offer jobs and careers in their area of interest
- Participate in career discussions with people who work in their career area of interest
- Make requests to participate in career-based learning experiences offered, such as job-shadowing, internships, company tours, and summer employment.

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)

IHEs refer to the two- and four-year public, private, and tribal colleges and universities.

K12 Career Pathway

A K12 career pathway is a series of connected career and technical courses and training opportunities that flow seamlessly into a post-high school education setting or directly into entry-level work for a specific career area.

LEA

LEA stands for local educational agency. It is another term for a public school district overseen by an elected school board.

Local Career Pathway

A local career pathway is a K12 career pathway that has been developed by a single school district or consortium of school districts.

Regional Career Pathway (RCP)

An RCP is a K12 career pathway that has been developed by a collaborative of regional partners that include: K12 educators, higher education partners, industry partners, workforce and economic development partners and has been endorsed by the state through the Department of Public Instruction. School districts in the region can use the regional career pathway to create their own customized District RCP map. Furthermore, the collaborative acts as a whole, on behalf of regional districts, to identify and overcome barriers to access in the region, including alignment of college programming.

RCP Collaborative

A RCP Collaborative is a broad group of cross-sector partners supporting career pathways. This group provides input and support, but does not necessarily make final decisions.

RCP Map

The state endorsed document containing information and links on the job titles, high school components and post secondary options that have been vetted and approved by regional partners.

Regional Economic Development Organizations (REDOs)

REDOs are a group of nine partners around the state that work closely with the Wisconsin Economic Development Organizations (WEDC) to facilitate and coordinate resources and support for local businesses.

Regional Industry Sector Employers

Regional industry sector employers refers to a group of employers and industry partners from a specific regional career pathway that have committed to building and supporting a RCP related to their industry in a region. There must be a group of committed regional industry sector employers for each RCP that is developed and implemented in each region.

Work-based Learning (WBL)

WBL is a subset of CBLEs that meet the required Perkins definition for quality and rigor:

1. Sustained interactions with industry or community professionals
2. Take place in real workplace settings, as practicable, (or simulated environments at an educational institution)
3. Foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field
4. Aligned to curriculum and instruction

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