



ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER
SUCCESS NETWORK

Communicating the Value of Postsecondary Options to High School Students

*April 1, 2025,
11 a.m.–12 p.m.*



Mission

To support communities to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment

Supports

- Share best practices & foster peer-to-peer learning
- Provide technical assistance
- Serve as a conduit for innovation grants
- Gather and curate critical data

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Jeneen Hatoum, Michigan College Access Network
Director, High School Innovation

Setting the context:

- Michigan does not have a statewide higher education authority/governing body
- Department of Education
- Local control
- Associations

By 2030, 60% of working-age Michiganders will have a **postsecondary certificate or college degree**. This will close the employment skills gap and provide Michiganders with greater opportunities to earn family-sustaining wages, an improved sense of well-being, and a brighter future for the entire state.

Current trends in Michigan show a decrease in college enrollment and attainment, which leaves a gap in the state's **skilled workforce**.



Dual enrollment and Early Middle College students outpace their counterparts in college enrollment and college completion.



Dual Enrollment and Career and Technical Education pay off for Michigan students



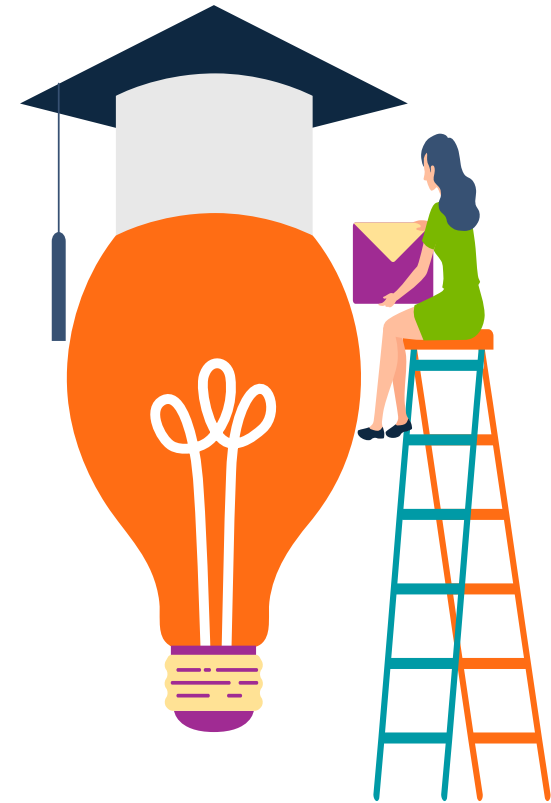
76.3% of Dual Enrollment or Early Middle College students enroll in college within 12 months of high school graduation compared to 55.9% of their peers who did not engage in these opportunities.



44% of Dual Enrollment or Early Middle College students enrolling in college earned a postsecondary degree or certificate within four years, compared to 21.1% of their peers who did not engage in these opportunities.



CTE pays off as a foundation or enhancement of a postsecondary credential but not as a substitute for it.



Accelerated Pathways as a path toward achieving 60% by 2030.

Increasing access, enrollment, and completion of accelerated pathways will help actualize Michigan's vision.



Accelerated Pathways

Provide students with an opportunity to:

- Earn a minimum of 15 hours of early college credit in high school
- Seamlessly transition into aligned postsecondary certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree programs
- Gain authentic college experiences at little or no cost to students

Schools may provide accelerated pathways through the following models:

- Early Middle College
- Dual Enrollment
- Career and Technical Education



DEFINITIONS

Pathway	Credits	Possible Outcomes
Early Middle College	Up to 60 transferable college credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An associate degree; • A professional certification; • Postsecondary certificate; • The Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate; OR • Participation in a registered apprenticeship.
Dual Enrollment	Up to 10 college classes (30 credits)	College credit at an accredited college/university
CTE	CTE EMCs - college credits CTE Dual Enrollment - college credits Postsecondary articulated credit	CTE Enrollee - enrolled in a CTE course CTE Concentrator - completes two or more CTE courses CTE Completer - completes the entire CTE program 378 statewide industry-recognized credentials

Through improved statewide policy, expansive communication efforts, and strategic program enhancement, Michigan will address barriers to expanding equitable accelerated pathways.

Policies

Funding, eligibility

Program Enhancement

Strategic high school pathway design, addressing labor market needs, advising supports

Awareness

Lack of awareness, intentional outreach

Data Infrastructure

Statewide, program-level, institutional data

CURRENT REALITY (BASELINE)

Pathway	2022-2023 Participation Number of students	Offerings	Program Completers/Outcomes
EMC	15,076 (3.3%)	Fall 2024 83/83 counties served	Earned one or more of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An associate degree - 1,464 (38%) • A professional certification - 234 (6%) • Postsecondary certificate - 131 (3%) • The Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate - 2066 (53%) • Participation in a registered apprenticeship - 5 (<1%)
Dual Enrollment	16,030 (3.5%)	83/83 842 districts (2021-22)	97% completion rate for Dual Enrollment courses
CTE	108,874 (24%) (General CTE - not necessarily CTE DE)	53 Programs 388 Credentials	48,334 (44%) Note: completers include non dual enrollment
Total	139,980 31%		

Through improved statewide policy, expansive communication efforts, and strategic program enhancement, Michigan will address barriers to expanding equitable accelerated pathways.

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Strategic high school pathway design, addressing labor market needs, advising supports

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Statewide, program-level, institutional data

Focus Groups

Families

- Heard from another parent
- Difficult to navigate

Counselors

- Difficult to get to every student
- Depends on school culture and administrative buy-in
- Difficult to navigate all of the options, especially for newer counselors

Students

- Heard from other friends
- Heard from a teacher

College in High School Toolkit



Communications Toolkit Resources



COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Communications Toolkit

Developed using insights from Michigan's students, families, and educators, this toolkit equips districts, school leaders, and counselors to share the benefits of college in high school opportunities and support students in navigating the many options available to them.



WHY IT MATTERS

In a career landscape where many of today's jobs require more than a high school diploma, Michigan's educators know college in high school opportunities are critical to students' long-term success. It's why we've invested in creating these programs. For them to have their intended impact, however, we must equally invest in helping students and their families understand why they matter, what options are available, and how to find the best fit — ensuring that Michigan students have the opportunity to access postsecondary education if it's relevant for their dreams.

Additionally, all schools in Michigan are legally required to distribute communications about College in High School opportunities to students once a year ([see comms template below](#)).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Resources** - Customizable tools to help you navigate conversations with students, parents & caregivers about College in High School opportunities. They are designed to compliment each other so you can use one or all of them depending on the scenario.
- How to access resources** - Guidance on how to access and create your own copies of each resource
- Conversation tips** - Important reminders to help thoughtfully guide your conversations with students, parents & caregivers about College in High School opportunities
- Additional resources** - Links to external resources related to College in High School opportunities offered by Michigan Department of Education and Michigan College Access Network

RESOURCES

	Purpose	Customization	Recommended Use
Preferences Worksheet Google Doc Word Canva	<p>Help students connect their goals and preferences with available opportunities.</p> <p>Help equip parents & caregivers with the information they need to support their students.</p>	<p>Minimal content customization is recommended. Focus on increasing accuracy and specificity of program descriptions without adding details that could overwhelm or unnecessarily deter consideration.</p>	<p>Use as a conversation starter for students considering college in high school opportunities for the first time.</p> <p>Share with parents & caregivers to encourage conversation with their students at home.</p>
Preferences Form Google Form	<p>Help students connect their goals and preferences with available opportunities.</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: Replace links to Overview documents with versions customized for your school/district.</p> <p>Add student identification questions as needed, making sure to adhere to district data collection policies.</p>	<p>Use in place of the worksheet if capturing student interests digitally is a priority.</p>
Comparison Worksheet Google Doc Word Canva	<p>Provide a simple, side by side comparison of opportunities and the extent to which they support student goals.</p> <p>Help equip parents & caregivers with the information they need to support their students.</p>	<p>Minimal content customization is recommended. Focus on increasing accuracy and specificity of program descriptions without adding details that could overwhelm or unnecessarily deter consideration.</p>	<p>Use as follow up to the Preferences Worksheet/Form for students struggling to choose between opportunities or who may not be fully considering other options.</p> <p>Share with parents & caregivers to encourage conversation with their students at home.</p>

	Purpose	Customization	Recommended Use
Overview Documents CTE Google Doc Word Canva	<p>Expand on the benefits of opportunities, key decision-making considerations, and available options.</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: Add logo or delete logo placeholder. Customize colors as desired</p>	<p>Share the relevant overviews with students based on responses to the Preferences and Comparison worksheets.</p>
Dual Enrollment Google Doc Word Canva	<p>Help equip parents & caregivers with the information they need to support their students.</p>	<p>Make small customizations to the "Is ___ a good fit?" prerequisite information and "FAQ" answers to ensure accuracy and specificity without adding details that could overwhelm or unnecessarily deter consideration.</p>	<p>Continue the conversation as needed, working to move from discovery to decision-making to enrollment.</p>
EMC Google Doc Word Canva	<p>Help equip parents & caregivers with the information they need to support their students.</p>	<p>For shared or consortium programs across districts, customization should be coordinated.</p>	<p>Share with parents & caregivers to encourage conversation with their students at home.</p>
Required Communications	<p>Give school leaders a template for required communications about College in High School opportunities.</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: Make sure that all program offerings, eligibility requirements, application processes and other specific details are customized to your school.</p>	<p>Distribute to students and parents once a year by March 1st, as legally mandated.</p>
High School In College "Hype" Video <i>Coming Soon</i>	<p>Spark student interest in exploring College in High School opportunities with their counselors.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Share on social media, websites, and relevant email communications.</p> <p>Use as a "hype video" at the beginning of student presentations.</p>
PPT Google Slides PPT	<p>Provide a comprehensive overview of all College in High School opportunities for students.</p>	<p>While customization isn't required, we encourage you to provide specifics where there are currently generalities. For instance, "Generally, most costs (college tuition, fees, books) are free and covered by the school district." could be replaced with the costs your school district covers.</p>	<p>Use as part of orientations, assemblies or small groups meetings led by counselors.</p>

Communications Toolkit Access and Tips

HOW TO ACCESS

- 1. Google Docs & Google Form**
 - a. Open the Google Docs linked above.
 - b. Go to "File" -> "Make a copy."
 - c. Rename the copy as needed and save it to your Google Drive.
 - d. **IMPORTANT:** Only make edits to the copied form. DO NOT edit the original.
- 2. Word Docs**
 - a. Open the Word Docs linked above
 - b. Go to "File" -> "Download" -> "Microsoft Word"
- 3. Canva**
 - a. Open the Canva Doc linked above
 - b. Click the "File" button in the top left corner.
 - c. Select "Make a copy."
 - d. Rename the copy and move it to your desired folder.

CONVERSATION TIPS

- **Start with the why.** Before describing specific programs and opportunities, help students understand the benefits — whether they plan to go to college or not. The Preferences Worksheet and Comparison Worksheet intros provide sample language you can build from.
- **Consider terminology carefully.** While "College in High School," "Early College Credit," and other phrases are often used interchangeably amongst educators, consider which one you use with students and families carefully. "College in High School" was specifically chosen for these resources to help dispel the notion that these opportunities are only worth considering if you have already decided to enroll in college.
- **Reduce pressure on making the "right" decision.** Make it clear that participating in any of these opportunities is beneficial, framing the decision point as one of "best fit" rather than "right vs. wrong."
- **Save the details for later.** Focus on helping students align their goals and interests with programs before getting too far into the details on qualifications, logistics, and costs. Sharing these details too soon can lead students to quickly discount opportunities because of their own insecurities or assumptions.
- **Listen first.** Be mindful that we all carry assumptions about the abilities and interests of our students that may not be accurate. As much as possible, advise students based on their own statements using the provided worksheets and discussion questions to hear directly from them.
- **Bring parents & caregivers into the conversation.** Parents & caregivers are vital influencers in a student's college and career preparation. You can positively impact a student's journey by involving parents & caregivers in conversations, fostering a stronger support network, enhancing communication between home and school, and aligning family goals with a student's academic and professional aspirations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Michigan Department of Education Resources

- [Program Definitions](#)
- [Advanced Placement](#)
- [CTE](#)
- [CTE Postsecondary Credit Agreements](#)
- [Dual Enrollment](#)
- [Early Middle College](#)
- [International Baccalaureate](#)

Michigan College Access Network Resources

- [The Dual Enrollment Playbook: Research and Best Practices for Equitable Access](#)
- [National \(state by state comparisons\) Dual Enrollment data dashboard](#)
- [DEEP Framework: Broadening Benefits of Dual Enrollment](#)
- [Certificate Programs in Michigan](#)
- [Regional Career Outlooks in Michigan](#)

Communications Toolkit

Developed to help with school capacity

Able to be personalized (*Arabic and Spanish are next steps*)

Includes handouts, flow charts, and presentations and [video](#)

Access via Google

»» Using the Communications Toolkit



Access the Communications Toolkit through Google Docs

Under ‘What’s included,’ click on “How to access resources” and follow those directions.

Note: Copy and save to a personal Google drive




Choose from Google Docs, Word Docs, or Canva



Customize the docs with district specific logos, contact information, etc.


Davison Early College Example

DAVISON EARLY COLLEGE



Supported Start to College

Davison Early College transforms the typical high school experience into a five-year program of study culminating with a recognized credential.



IS DEC A GOOD FIT?

DEC is a great option for students who want to:

- Jumpstart your college or career journey with catered individual supports
- Save on future college tuition & fees
- Focus your studies within a pathway and take classes within a chosen major to earn a credential or degree
- Develop power skills like adaptability, initiative, and time management.

You may need to complete certain prerequisites to participate in EMC. Talk to the Early College Coordinator to get started.

WHAT YOU GET

Earn both your high school diploma and one or more of the following in five years or less:

- Up to 60 transferable college credits
- An associate degree
- A professional certification
- The Michigan Early Middle College Association ([MEMCA](#)) technical certificate

WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

Integrate high school, college, and industry preparation within a highly supportive environment so you're ready for your next step, whether that's a transfer to 4-year college or jumpstarting your career.

Intentional Support

Transitioning to college can be a jarring experience. DEC helps prepare you for the next step through programs including college tours, summer boot camps and more.

"The DEC Coordinator is incredibly helpful and vital to the process - very kind and donating so much time to each student."

Engaging Academics

If you already know what career path you'd like to explore, why wait to start preparing? DEC coordinates the work you do in school with the work you'd like to do out of it.

"Pursuing Davison Early College lifted me with hope because I can actually take classes that I want to take and coursework that builds to what I want to be doing."

Career Exploration

It's not uncommon for college students to change their minds about what to study. DEC gives you a chance to test the waters sooner, so you can make more confident choices when the stakes are higher.

"This program has helped me find my passion and what I want to continue to study in the future."

WHY CHOOSE DEC?

Consider the following questions, and discuss them with your support system, including your counselor:

Do I have a sense of a career field or academic path I'd like to pursue?

Am I ready to handle college-level and highschool coursework at the same time?

Do I manage my time well enough to balance rigorous academics, extracurriculars, and my personal interests?

Am I comfortable with staying in high school an extra year in order to complete a college credential?

FAQS

Q: What's the difference between DEC and dual enrollment?

A: DEC is designed to get you a credential, like an Associate's degree. Dual enrollment allows you to earn individual college credits during high school but is not set up to lead to a credential.

Q: What happens during the fifth year of the DEC program?

A: Your fifth year is typically spent completing courses needed for the credential you are completing, whether it leads to a career or four-year college transfer.

Q: Will I have to pay for the college courses I take in high school?

A: Most college course expenses are covered by the DEC program. The costs associated with books, supplies, and transportation may vary — contact your DEC Coordinator for more information.


YOUR OPTIONS

Early College Coordinator

Mr. Marty Quertermous

mquertermous@davisonschools.org
810 - 591 - 0611
Office #: Room Z30

Early College Website



Get a head start on life after high school. For little to no cost.

Many of today's jobs require more than a high school diploma. Whether you hope to land a job right after high school or pursue a college degree – or even if you're not sure yet – Michigan's free and low-cost College in High School programs help prepare you to pursue what's next.

Explore your options and take advantage of opportunities now!



Are any of the following true for you?

- I want to be prepared for college
- I want to be prepared for my career
- I want to reduce the future cost of college
- I want to earn college credits that could transfer to a 2- or 4-year college

If you checked any of the above, the below programs may be able to help you get there!

Early Middle College	Career Technical Education	Dual Enrollment
<p>Transforms the typical high school experience into a five-year program, to earn up to an Associate's Degree.</p> <p>Takeaway: 60 credits, associates degree, professional certification, Michigan Early Middle College Association Technical Certificate. Earn your credential up to 1 year earlier than non-EMC peers.</p> <p>Commitment: Grades 11, 12, and one additional full time college year.</p> <p>Student Profile: Best fit for those interested in adding an extra year of high school with the goal of a free college credential. Good for students looking for structured supports and targeted college/career planning guidance.</p>	<p>Provides real world experience, relevant academics, and credentials in high-demand high-wage careers.</p> <p>Takeaway: Industry certification and/or option to apply for college credit.</p> <p>Commitment: 1-2 years. Plus the opportunity to participate in work-based learning, such as internships and apprenticeships.</p> <p>Student Profile: Best fit for those interested in exploring a particular career or area of study. Good for students looking for an opportunity to work on project-based, real-world assignments, with a direct connection to high-demand high-wage careers.</p>	<p>Allows high school students to take college courses and earn high school and college credits at the same time.</p> <p>Takeaway: up to 10 college courses during the four year high school experience.</p> <p>Commitment: One semester at a time, you can opt in or out of classes on a semesterly basis.</p> <p>Student Profile: Best fit for those who enjoy independent learning - whether online or in-person. Good for students looking for flexibility to explore a variety of college subjects and not commit to a specific program/major.</p>

Not sure which program is right for you? Chat with your support system and meet with your HS Counselor to brainstorm next steps!

vbisd.org/vbtech

Sample: College in High School Preferences Worksheet

Van Buren ISD

VAN BUREN MIDDLE COLLEGE

Jump start your path to College & Career!

The Van Buren Middle College program will transform the typical high school experience and help students earn up to a full Associate's Degree for free, while still in high school!



IS EMC A GOOD FIT?

EMC is a great option for students who want to:

- Jumpstart their college or career journey with holistic supports
- Save on future college tuition & fees
- Focus their academic studies within a guided pathway or college major
- Develop power skills like adaptability, initiative, and time management

To enroll in VBMC, students must take part in a formal application process during their 10th grade year - see your HS Counselor to get started.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

VBMC is an **accelerated college program** designed to help a student **complete a high school diploma and up to a full Associate's Degree at the same time** over the course of three years (grades 11, 12, and one additional full time college year).

Through this innovative program, students will be able to **save both time and money** as they get a jump start on their postsecondary pathway, at **no out of pocket cost** to them!

Is your 10th grade student ready for a challenge? Eager to start college? Ready to earn free college credit? Then **join us and dive in - class is in session!**

WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

Integrate high school, college, and industry preparation within a highly supportive environment; VBMC helps students prepare for their next step, whether that's a transfer to 4-year college or jumpstarting a career.

Intentional Support

Transitioning to college can be a jarring experience. VBMC helps prepare students for the next step through strategic supports including orientation, summer boot camp, and program mentoring.

"EMC Mentors are incredibly helpful and vital to the process - they are very kind and donate so much time to helping each student."

Engaging Academics

If your student already knows what career path they'd like to explore, why wait to start preparing? VBMC bridges the gap between the work students do in school, with the work they'll do when they graduate.

"Pursuing EMC lifted me with hope because I can actually take classes that I want to take and coursework that builds to what I want to be doing."

Career Exploration

It's not uncommon for college students to change their minds about what to study. VBMC gives students a chance to test the waters sooner, and make more confident choices when the stakes are higher.

"This program has helped me find my passion and what I want to continue to study in the future."

WHY CHOOSE EMC?

Students should consider and discuss the following with their personal support system, and HS Counselor:

Do I have a sense of a career field or academic path I'd like to pursue? Or am I looking for a way to explore college pathways and course options?

Am I ready to handle college-level coursework and high school responsibilities at the same time?

Do I manage my time well enough to balance rigorous academics, extracurriculars, and my personal interests?

Am I comfortable with staying in high school an extra year in order to complete a college credential for free?

FAQs

Q: What's the difference between VBMC and dual enrollment?

A: VBMC is designed to help students earn a full college credential, like up to an Associate's Degree. Dual enrollment allows students to earn some individual college credits, but is often not directly targeted to lead to degree completion.

Q: What happens during the fifth year (grade "13") of VBMC?

A: Your fifth year is spent enrolled full-time on the college campus, completing the final courses needed for the credential you are working on (whether it leads to an Associate's Degree and future career, or four-year college transfer towards a Bachelor's Degree or higher).

Q: Will I have to pay for the college courses I take in VBMC?

A: No - all college expenses are covered by the VBMC program. The costs associated with tuition, fees, books, and mandatory supplies are covered! Note, transportation to the college campus is your responsibility to coordinate.

PROGRAM DETAILS

VBMC CTE - Track 1

CTE track students enroll in one of the VB Tech CTE programs during grade 11, for targeted career exploration and hands-on learning & work experience. CTE students then transition into college classes targeted towards a CTE related pathway in grades 12 and 13.

VBMC Liberal Arts/Ged Ed - Track 2

Liberal Arts/Gen Ed track students enroll in cohort college courses that take place at VB Tech in grade 11, these targeted entry-level classes help bridge the gap to college enrollment. Students then transition onto the college campus in grades 12 and 13.

VBMC Graduates - Outcomes

Students earn both their high school diploma and one of the following:

- Associate's Degree
- 60 transferable college credits
- A professional certification
- The Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate

Contact us today to learn more and create your college plan!

Larissa Hunt, VBISD College Coordinator

Lhunt@vbisd.org

vbisd.org/vbtech



Get a head start on life after high school. For little to no cost.

Many of today's jobs require more than a high school diploma. Whether you hope to land a job right after high school or pursue a college degree – or even if you're not sure yet – Michigan's free and low-cost College in High School programs help prepare you to pursue what's next.

Explore your options and take advantage of opportunities now!



FIRST:

Check off all of the statements that are important to you in the boxes on the left.

THEN:

See which of the College in High School opportunities will help you achieve your unique goals.

		Early Middle College	Career Technical Education	Dual Enrollment
		Transforms the typical high school experience into a five-year program, to earn up to an Associate's Degree.	Provides real world experience, relevant academics, and credentials in high-demand high-wage careers.	Allows high school students to take college courses and earn high school and college credits at the same time.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to be prepared for college	Yes	Yes	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to be prepared for my career	Yes	Yes	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to reduce the future cost of college	Yes	Yes	Yes

		Early Middle College Transforms the typical high school experience into a five-year program, to earn up to an Associate's Degree.	Career Technical Education Provides real world experience, relevant academics, and credentials in high demand high wage careers.	Dual Enrollment Allows high school students to take college courses and earn high school and college credits at the same time.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to earn college credits that could transfer to a 2- or 4-year college	Yes <i>0-60 credits</i>	Yes <i>Potential option to apply for college credit</i>	Yes <i>Take up to 10 college courses</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to experience college-level coursework	Yes	No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to experience a more engaging learning environment, even if it requires more time and complexity	Yes <i>Additional year of enrollment</i>	Yes <i>1-2 years total</i>	Yes <i>Courses can be online or in person</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to earn a full college credential before I graduate (like an Associate's degree)	Yes	No	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to work with my hands on real-world projects	Yes	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want structured, holistic supports to help me feel ready for my next step	Yes	Yes	No

Implementing the Communications Toolkit

In the Classroom
and
Counseling
Meetings

College and
Career Fairs

8th Grade Parent
Nights

9th Grade
Parent/Student
Orientation

Education
Development
Process (EDP) i.e.
Xello, Naviance

Statewide workgroups allowed for discourse, consensus building and feedback.

Common Vocabulary	Mindsets, Biases
Feedback Loops	

Thank you !



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Upcoming Meetings



April 4

10:30–11:30 a.m.

*College and Career Pathway
Endorsement Workgroup*



April 28

10–11 a.m.

*Building Pathways to Career,
Connection and Choice*

Register now at ILSuccessNetwork.org



ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER
SUCCESS NETWORK

Thank You

