



Understanding Diploma Options and their Relationship to Post-Secondary Goals

The diploma your child chooses to work toward, as well as the courses taken, needs to align with the planned career to provide maximum opportunities for success.

Assist your child with planning with the end in mind by:

- Selecting the necessary courses in middle and high school to earn the diploma that will best prepare your child for the planned career goal;
- Discussing the career goal with the school counselor and IEP Team;
- Encouraging your child to research careers and participate in career exploration activities.

Academic and Career Planning

While in elementary and middle school, your child will explore career clusters and pathways and create an Academic and Career Plan. That Plan can serve as the roadmap to help your child achieve post-secondary goals. Your child will also be receiving instruction in Career Investigations.

This instruction will be delivered in different ways by different schools, but your child will be learning important skills for post-secondary education and a career that includes:

- Workplace skills
- Teamwork
- Career clusters and pathways
- Goal development and planning
- Public speaking
- Self-advocacy
- Examining labor market data
- Interest assessments

Reminders

Make sure to speak to your child's school counselor about the best diploma for your child's possible career goals, then begin collecting the necessary information about the job to know what courses must be taken to best prepare for that career.

Remember, if you and your child choose the Applied Studies Diploma option, your child may be working on modified standards that have been reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity. As a result, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse course later.