

STEPSTONE ACADEMY

CAREER ADVISING POLICY

The Board of Directors delegates responsibility for implementation of this policy to its Operator. The policy must be made available to students, parents, guardians and custodians, local post-secondary institutions and district residents. The policy must be posted in a prominent location on the School's website.

The School shall:

1. Provide students with grade-level examples that link students' schoolwork to one or more career fields by using curricula that may include, but is not limited to, the Career Connections Learning Strategies offered by the Ohio Department of Education.
2. Provide and document career advising to students in grades 6-12, which includes meeting with each student at least once annually to discuss academic and career pathway opportunities.
3. Provide additional interventions and career advising for students who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school. These activities include:
 - a. Identifying students who are at risk of dropping out of school using a locally-based and research-based method developed with input from teachers, school counselors and other appropriate School staff.
 - b. Developing a Student Success Plan for each at-risk student that addresses the student's academic pathway to successful graduation and the role of career technical education, competency-based education and experiential learning, when appropriate, in that pathway.
 - i. Before the School develops a pupil's Student Success Plan, School staff will invite the student's parent, guardian or custodian to assist in developing the plan. If that adult does not participate in the plan development, the School will provide to the adult a copy of the Student Success Plan, a statement of the importance of a high school diploma and a listing of the pathways to graduation available to the student. This plan may be documented by means of the College and Career Readiness Dataview, or by other methods.
 - ii. Following the development of a Student Success Plan, the School will provide career advising to the student that is aligned with his or her Student Success Plan, and the School's plan to advise students.

4. Provide training for employees on how to advise students on career pathways, including training on the use of the tools available in OhioMeansJobs K-12 or other online resources provided by the School.
5. Provide multiple clear academic pathways through high school that students may choose to earn a high school diploma, including opportunities to earn postsecondary course credit, take advanced placement (AP) courses, and meet requirements to be eligible for admissions into competitive colleges.
6. Provide and publicize information on courses that can award students both traditional academic and career-technical credit.
7. Make each student's career advising documentation available to that student, the student's parent, guardian or custodian, and any other school or college authorized by the student. This documentation will cover activities that support the student's academic, career and social/emotional development. The School will not otherwise release the documentation without the written consent of the student's parent, guardian, or custodian, if the student is less than eighteen years old, or the written consent of the student, if the student is at least eighteen years old.
8. Provide the support necessary for students to transition from high school to their postsecondary destinations, including the interventions and services necessary for students who need remediation in mathematics and English language arts.
9. Provide students with information regarding career fields that require an industry-recognized credential, certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, graduate degree, or professional degree.
10. Provide students with information about ways to offset the costs of post-secondary education, including information on programs such as the reserve officer training corps, the college credit plus program, the Ohio guaranteed transfer pathways initiative, and joint academic programming or dual enrollment opportunities.