



Vision 2026 Update on College and Career Readiness

April 23, 2025

Purpose for Tonight

Tonight's presentation will provide an update of several key topics related to the college and career readiness work outlined in the Vision 2026 Strategic Plan. We'll discuss the following:

- **College and Career Readiness:** This involves providing students with strong academic skills and practical, career-focused learning experiences.
- **Career Pathways:** These are structured educational programs that link classroom learning to real-world career opportunities.
- **Career-Connected Learning:** This focuses on developing skills and abilities that enable students to make informed decisions about their future careers.
- **Future Plans:** The specific action items to be included in the 2025-26 work plan.

Guiding Questions

1 What does it mean to be College and Career ready?

2 What is a Career Pathway?

3 What are CUSD 200's priority Career Pathways?

4 What is Career- Connected Learning?

5 What are the next steps for this work?

College Readiness

College readiness involves being prepared to enroll in and successfully complete entry-level, credit-bearing, academic programs at two- and four-year post-secondary schools as well as being equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to transition successfully.

College Readiness

The CUSD 200 English and Math proficiency indicators on the Vision 2026 dashboard define the academic criteria to enroll in credit bearing post secondary coursework.

English

Course:

- AP Course (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Dual Credit Course (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Transitional Course (Grade of A, B, or C)

Exam Score

- Minimum ACT Subject Scores of 18 on English and 22 on Reading
- Minimum SAT Subject Score of 540
- AP Score of a 3 or higher

Math

Course:

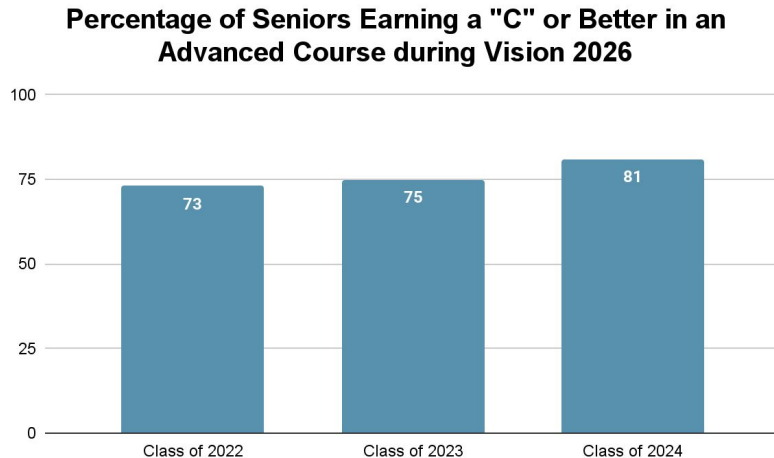
- AP Course (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Dual Credit Course (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Transitional Course (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Algebra II (Grade of A,B or C)

Exam Score

- Minimum ACT Subject Scores of 22 and a fourth year math course
- Minimum SAT Subject Score of 540 and a fourth year math course
- AP Score of a 3 or higher

College Readiness

CUSD 200 values opportunities for students to take advanced coursework. This is because earning a C or better in an advanced course are likely to have better postsecondary outcomes.



Number of Advanced Courses		
	2024-25	2025-26
AP	24	25
Dual Credit	17	19

College Readiness

Beginning in 2024-25, the Accelerated Placement Act went into effect.

“Accelerated placement” means the placement of a student in an educational setting with curriculum that is usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student.

Students who meet or exceed the State standards in English, math or science will be automatically enrolled in the next level of advanced coursework.

Key Outcomes for CUSD 200

MINIMAL GPA IMPACT
BY GRADE LEVEL



Freshman On-Track

Zero 9th grade failures

where state rec was higher than teacher recommendation.

2X BLACK & HISPANIC

representation in A-Level classes due to the state recommendations

Increased equity
with no academic
penalty



Career Readiness

Career Readiness includes core academic skills, employability skills, and technical, job-specific skills connected to a specific career pathway.

Guiding Questions

1 What does it mean to be College and Career ready?

2 What is a Career Pathway?

3 What are CUSD 200's priority Career Pathways?

4 What is Career- Connected Learning?

5 What are the next steps for this work?

Components of a Complete Career Pathway

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Career-Connected Learning	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
<p>Qualification for an endorsement on the graduate's transcript is based on the school district's programming and approval from ISBE.</p> <p>To earn an endorsement students needs to meet requirements listed in this table & ELA and Math Proficiency Indicators (D200 Dashboard Metrics)</p>	<p>Types of experiences and information a student should have in order to make the most informed decisions about college and career planning, beginning in middle school and continuing through high school.</p>	<p>A sequence of courses that teach students skills and/or content that they need to use in entry-level employment and/or career focused postsecondary courses. Sequence of courses:</p> <p>Career Exploration & Discovery (6-8)*</p> <p>Orientation (9-10)</p> <p>Skill Development (10-12)</p> <p>Capstone (12)</p>	<p>At least 6 hours of earned credit from early college coursework aligned to the career pathway (Dual Credit or AP)</p>	<p>60 hours of work-based learning experiences aligned to the Career Pathway</p>	<p>A certificate that demonstrates knowledge in a particular field and can allow for entry-level employment.</p>	<p>An opportunity to further explore a career cluster to prepare students after high school and develop interests.</p>

College and Career Pathway Endorsement

To earn a College and Career Pathway Endorsement (CCPE) on a high school diploma/transcript, a student must complete an individualized learning plan, engage in a career-focused instructional sequence (including early college credit), participate in work-based learning, and demonstrate readiness for college-level reading and math.

Year	CUSD 200 Students Earning a CCPE	Illinois State Students Earning a CCPE
2021	0	47
2022	0	596
2023	19	1072
2024	30	2422

Guiding Questions

1 What does it mean to be College and Career ready?

2 What is a Career Pathway?

3 What are CUSD 200's priority Career Pathways?

4 What is Career- Connected Learning?

5 What are the next steps for this work?

Illinois's Career Pathway Clusters

[ISBE has seven endorsement areas.](#) Within these seven areas, there are multiple career pathways.

The linked in document has indicated which pathways CUSD 200 has deemed as “priority pathways” and work is underway to fully develop the pathway.

Priority Career Pathway: Communications

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Arts and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speech (7) -Communication Studies (10) -Introduction to Acting (10) -Broadcast Media 1 (11/12) -Broadcast Media 2 (11/12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Broadcast Media 1 -Broadcast Media 2 	Seven different opportunities with Business Partners including: Green Tree Studios, Axiom, City of Wheaton, City of Warrenville, COD, WDCB	<i>Still in development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Drama Club -Improv -School Play/Tech/Lights -Speech Team -Student Newspaper



Axiom Media Group



Greentree Studios



**City of Warrenville Parks &
Recreation Department**



**City of Wheaton
Public Information
Department**

Priority Career Pathway: Entrepreneurship

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Finance and Business Services	-Entrepreneurship (8) -Intro to Business (9/10) -Sports Marketing (10/12) - <i>Social Media Marketing (11-12)</i> -Business InCubator (11/12)	-InCubator -Sports Marketing -Social Media Marketing	Occurs within Business InCubator	<i>Still in Development</i>	-Business Club -DECA

Priority Career Pathway: Marketing

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Finance and Business Services	-Entrepreneurship (8) -Intro to Business (9/10) -Sports Marketing (10/12) - <i>Social Media Marketing (11-12)</i>	-Sports Marketing - <i>Social Media Marketing</i>	<i>In Development</i>	<i>Still in Development</i>	-Art Club -Business Club -DECA -Falcon Influencers Social Media Club -Falcon Weekly -Fashion Club -Lit Magazine & Writing Club -Student Newspaper -Yearbook

Priority Career Pathway: Culinary

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Financial Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -World Language (8+) -Culinary Arts and Nutrition 1 & 2 (9/10) -Baking and Pastry (10/11) -International Cuisine (11/12) -Professional Cooking, Baking and Service (11/12) -Cooking Up Success/Senior Foods (12)) 	Professional Cooking, Baking and Service (6)	Employee Internship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ServSafe Food Handler Certification ServSafe Managers Certification ServSafe Allergen Certificate American Culinary Federation Certification Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board Cheese Certification Sustainability Stewardship SP/2 safety/ Professional Skills Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French Club Spanish Club German Club

Career Pathway: Education

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Human and Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spanish and French (8+)- Child Development (10)-Introduction to Teaching 1 and 2 (11/12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Child Development (WWS)-Introduction to Teaching 1 and 2	60 hours with a CUSD 200 teacher	<i>Still in Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Future Educators Club-Key Club-Link Crew-Speech Team-The Flock

Career Pathway Expansion: Nursing

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Health Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health (6-8) -Biology (9) -Responding to Emergencies (10) -Health (10) -TCD Nursing Assistant Program (11/12) -AP Biology (11/12) -Human Anatomy and Physiology (11/12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -TCD Nursing Assistant Program (13) -AP Biology 	Clinical Hours with TCD Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Illinois Nurse Assistant Competency Exam -Adult/Infant/Child CPR/ AED Certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Future Health Professionals of America -High Schools Against Cancer -Mental Wellness Club -Red Cross Club

Career Pathway Expansion: Engineering

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades	-Design and Modeling (7) -Automation and Robotics (8) -CAD (10-12) <i>-Engineering Essentials (9-12)</i> <i>Future Course Options:</i> <i>-Introduction to Engineering Design</i> <i>-Principles of Engineering</i>	AP Physics C	<i>Needs to be Developed</i>	<i>Needs to be Explored</i>	-Environmental Club -Future Leaders in STEM -High Schools Against Cancer -Science Club -Math Team

Guiding Questions

1 What does it mean to be College and Career ready?

2 What is a Career Pathway?

3 What are CUSD 200's priority Career Pathways?

4 What is Career- Connected Learning?

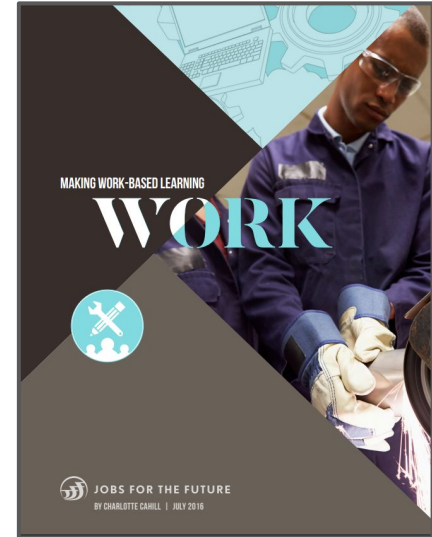
5 What are the next steps for this work?

Components of a Complete Career Pathway

ISBE College and Career Pathway Endorsement	Career-Connected Learning	Sequence of Courses	Early College Coursework	Work-Based Learning	Industry Credentials*	Co-curriculars*
<p>Qualification for an endorsement on the graduate's transcript is based on the school district's programming and approval from ISBE.</p> <p>To earn an endorsement students needs to meet requirements listed in this table & ELA and Math Proficiency Indicators (D200 Dashboard Metrics)</p>	Types of experiences and information a student should have in order to make the most informed decisions about college and career planning, beginning in middle school and continuing through high school.	<p>A sequence of courses that teach students skills and/or content that they need to use in entry-level employment and/or career focused postsecondary courses. Sequence of courses:</p> <p>Career Exploration & Discovery (6-8)*</p> <p>Orientation (9-10)</p> <p>Skill Development (10-12)</p> <p>Capstone (12)</p>	At least 6 hours of earned credit from early college coursework aligned to the career pathway (Dual Credit or AP)	60 hours of work-based learning experiences aligned to the Career Pathway	A certificate that demonstrates knowledge in a particular field and can allow for entry-level employment.	An opportunity to further explore a career cluster to prepare students after high school and develop interests.

Core Purposes of Career-Connected Learning

1. Expose participants to the world of work
2. Expose participants to a career field
3. Strengthen and practice academic learning
4. Enhance professional and/or career-track skills
5. Provide a temporary or permanent job



Career-Connected Learning Committee

34 members + Student Ambassadors from grades 6-12

- 11 administrators
- 4 middle school teachers
- 2 middle school counselors
- 11 high school teachers
- 2 high school counselors
- 1 representative from DAOES/TCD
- 1 representative from the ROE

Career-Connected Learning Committee

To do this work the committee engaged in the following topics:

- 1) Exemplar districts examples of Career-Connected Learning
- 2) Best practices and research
- 3) Learning from our Ambassadors

Career-Connected Guiding Principles

One outcome of the committee was to develop guiding principles for Career-Connected Learning. The seven guiding principles include:

- 1) Comprehensive Career Education and Readiness
- 2) Programs Based on Student Needs and Feedback
- 3) Develop Portrait of a Graduate Skills
- 4) Teacher Involvement and Professional Development
- 5) Intentional Promotion and Marketing
- 6) Strong Community and Business Partnerships
- 7) Dedicated Staffing and Program Infrastructure



CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Career Awareness | Grades 6-12

Learners build awareness about career and postsecondary options.

Career Exploration | Grades 8-12

Learners explore career and postsecondary options in order to make informed decisions about their future.

Career Preparation | Grades 8-12

Learners apply their understanding through practical experiences such as training programs and simulated work experiences that develop knowledge and core competencies for success in careers and postsecondary education.

Career Training | Grades 10-12

Learners train for employment and/or postsecondary education by engaging in work experiences such as internships and apprenticeships.

AT ALL GRADE LEVELS 6-12

A student should be **exposed to**:

- A broad range of career fields embedded within courses
- Low commitment career exploration opportunities during the school day
- Field trip experiences aligned with courses
- Guest speakers within the classroom

A student should be **supported to**:

- Complete the Career Interest Inventory
- Develop a four-year plan with career interests in mind

GRADES 6-8

A student should be **exposed to**:

- Opportunities to learn about programs/courses available at the Technology Center of DuPage
- A Career Day

A student should be **supported to**:

- Begin career planning
- Explore interests and develop talents through electives programming

GRADES 9-10

A student should be **exposed to**:

- The Career Pathways opportunities
- An internship fair

A student should be **supported to**:

- Begin to narrow the focus of career interests
- Learn about internships and their benefits

GRADE 11

A student should be **exposed to**:

- A job shadowing experience
- Opportunities to hear from alumni to assist in planning for their future

A student should be **supported to**:

- Secure an internship or apprenticeship opportunity

GRADE 12

A student should be **exposed to**:

- A job shadowing experience
- A capstone course with a team-based challenge

A student should be **supported to**:

- Secure an internship or apprenticeship opportunity

Guiding Questions

1 What does it mean to be College and Career ready?

2 What is a Career Pathway?

3 What are CUSD 200's priority Career Pathways?

4 What is Career- Connected Learning?

5 What are the next steps for this work?

2025-26 Work Plan

1) Continue to Develop Complete Career Pathways

- a) Marketing internship opportunities & Engineering pathway

2) Comprehensive Career Exploration and Readiness

- a) Embed career exploration opportunities within middle school electives curriculum work (Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Culinary Arts, Speech-Drama-Performance Seminar)
- b) Continue to expand middle school elective opportunities for students in Essentials Programming

3) Develop Portrait of a Graduate Skills

- a) Identify competencies, benchmarks, and instructional guidance for a descriptor - collaborator, communicator, problem-solver, resilient learner

4) Teacher Involvement and Professional Development:

- a) Provide professional development so all staff have knowledge about the Career-Connected Framework and Career Pathways
- b) Enhance the knowledge of middle school staff to support the transition to high school and creation of a four-year plan

5) Dedicated Staffing and Program Infrastructure

- a) Maximize the usage of Schoolinks

Career Pathways Advisory Council

The purpose of the advisory council is to bring in business partners to advise our work with Career Pathways and Career-Connected Learning activities. The council should include, but will not be limited to business partners that represent the seven pathways that are developed or in development in the district: Education, Entrepreneurship, Nursing, Marketing, Broadcast Media, Culinary, and Engineering.

2025-26 Meeting Dates: August 28, October 23, January 15, April 16

Discussion

Based on the information presented tonight, does anything need clarification or a further explanation?

- **College and Career Readiness:** This involves providing students with strong academic skills and practical, career-focused learning experiences.
- **Career Pathways:** These are structured educational programs that link classroom learning to real-world career opportunities.
- **Career-Connected Learning:** This focuses on developing skills and abilities that enable students to make informed decisions about their future careers.
- **Future Plans:** Staff have outlined specific action items to be included in the 2025-26 work plan.