

CUSD 200 Guiding Principles for Program Development for Career Connected Learning in Grades 6-12:

Comprehensive Career Exploration and Readiness

- Early Career Exposure: Begins in middle school and expands through high school with inclusive pathways for all students.
- Middle School Focus: Prioritizes career exploration to build early awareness and interest.
- Hands-On Experiences: Career fairs, job shadowing, simulations, and competitions provide real-world learning.
- Engaging Activities: Programs like “Lunch and Learns,” “Guest Speaker Wednesdays,” and industry simulations develop skills and career awareness.
- Integrated Curriculum: Career readiness is embedded in school culture, coursework, and structured pathways.
- Accessibility for All: Ensures opportunities for diverse student groups, including those with IEPs or in intervention programming.

Programs Based on Student Needs and Feedback

- Flexible Career Exploration: Offer structured, low-commitment opportunities, including capstone experiences.
- Stronger Business Partnerships: Expand internships so students don’t have to seek them out independently.
- Supportive Relationships: Staff guidance is key in course selection and career planning.
- Integrated Learning: Embed career exploration into the school day with guest speakers and curriculum connections.
- Student-Driven: Career development and work-based learning are highly valued by students.

Develop Portrait of a Graduate Skills

- Portrait of a Graduate Skills: Communication, collaboration, problem-solving, resilience are a primary focus, developed through curriculum, pre-internship training, and real-world experiences to ensure career and life success.
- Community Partnerships: Forming and maintaining relationships with community partners is crucial for providing students with relevant experiences, mentorship, and real-world skill practice, and reinforcing Portrait of a Graduate attributes.

Teacher Involvement and Professional Development

- Industry Engagement: Teachers collaborate with mentors and explore careers to bring real-world insights into the classroom.
- Student Support: Teachers receive release time to observe internships and guide students.
- Middle School Involvement: Staff play a key role in freshman course selection and benefit from professional learning.

Intentional Promotion and Marketing

- Marketing & Outreach: Use social media and family engagement to build awareness and celebrate student achievements.
- Integrated Career Prep: Align existing school initiatives with career goals through rebranding and repurposing.
- Course Promotion: Actively highlight available high school course opportunities.

Strong Community and Business Partnerships

- Community Partnerships: Collaborate with businesses, trades, legal professionals, and alumni for mentorships, internships, and job shadowing.
- Flexible Involvement: Offer varied commitment levels with clear participation guidelines.
- Expanded Reach: Partner with organizations to expand opportunities.

Dedicated Staffing and Program Infrastructure

- Dedicated Staffing: A coordinator and full-time staff ensure effective program management and partnerships.
- Flexible Scheduling: Release time and scheduling to support career programs.
- Optimized Tools: Maximize Schoolinks for program support.