

## Career and College Readiness

# Career Integration & Planning

## The Counselor as: Connector, Convener, and Compliance Partner Worksheet

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### Purpose

This worksheet is designed to guide counselors and school leaders in building a cohesive, developmentally aligned K-12 career integration system. It supports reflection, planning, and implementation by helping teams assess current practices, identify gaps, and establish sustainable structures that align with Louisiana’s career development expectations.

### The Big Idea

Career development is not a high school event.

It is a K-12 progression that must be:

- Intentional
- Developmentally appropriate
- Documented
- Monitored

Counselors are the system leaders who help make it happen.

## Louisiana’s K-12 Career Development Progression

Grade Band	Focus	What This Looks Like
K-2	Awareness & Identity	“Who am I?” and “What skills do I use?”
3-5	Curiosity & Connection	“How does learning connect to real work?”
6-8	Exploration	Career clusters & interest inventories
9-12	Pathways & Transition	IBcs, WBL, IGP updates, postsecondary planning

# Examples of Career Integration

## K-2: Awareness

**Goal:** Build language around skills, interests, and community.

**Example Activities:**

- Community Helper Week
  - Invite a nurse, an electrician, and a small business owner
  - Students identify skills used (problem-solving, teamwork, communication)
  - Counselor reinforces: “ *Skills transfer across careers.*”
- Career - Themed Read-Aloud
  - Read age-appropriate career books
  - Students sort tools by career
  - Reflection question: “ *What skills do these workers use?*”
- Skill-of-the-Week Board
  - Highlight one transferable skill
  - Teachers connect it to classroom tasks

**Documentation (Artifacts):**

Photo + lesson plan + counselor calendar log

## Middle School: Structured Exploration

### Grade 6 - Awareness

- Administer initial interest inventory
- Career Cluster Scavenger Hunt
- Academic-to-career posters in classrooms

### Grade 7 - Exploration

- Career Research Project
  - Students research:
    - Required education
    - Salary range
    - Skills required
- Guest Speaker Series
  - One per semester
  - Students complete a reflection tied to skills
- Job Shadow Day
  - Half - day structured shadow with reflection guide

### Grade 8 - Planning Launch

- Inventory Review Conference
  - Counselor interprets the results with the student
  - Emphasis: “ This guides conversation – not locks you in.”
- Family IGP Night
  - Review diploma pathways

- Discuss IBC options
- Explain dual enrollment
- IGP Development

**Documentation (Artifacts):**

Signed IGP + conference notes + inventory summary

**High School: Implementation & Transition**

Grade 8 & 9 Confirm & Orient	Grade 10 Plan & Prepare	Grade 11 Implement	Grade 12 Transition
IGP Review Conference	Dual Enrollment Info Night	Work-Based Learning Placement	FAFSA Completion Event
Introduce IBCs	Credential Planning Sheet	Resume Workshop	Senior Exit Interview
Pathway Overview Sessions	IGP Update with Specific Credential Targets	Interview Preparation Session	Post-Graduation Plan Verification

**Where are we now?**

**1. Current State Quick Audit (Rate 1-4)**

1= Not in place | 4= Fully implemented

Indicator	Rating
K-5 career awareness is consistent.	
Middle school exploration is structured.	
IGP updates reflect real advising.	
Roles between counselor, teacher & CTE are clear	

**Priority Area for Growth:**

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## 2. Career Connection Quick Build Tool

Grade Band: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Area: \_\_\_\_\_

### Let's Build It!

Career Connection:

\_\_\_\_\_

Transferable Skill Highlighted:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Who Leads Implementation?

- Counselor
- Teacher
- CTE
- Shared

#### What Proves It Happened?

- Lesson Plan
- Student artifact
- Photo
- Sign-in sheet
- IGP update

## 3. Making Career Integration Stick

### Accountability Structure Example:

- One career-connected activity per quarter (K-5)
- [R.S. 17:183.2](#) At least six activities at each grade level during each school year (6-8)
- [R.S. 17:2925](#) Annual IGP quality review (8-12)
- Shared tracking document across counselor + CTE + admin