

Kentucky Advising Academy releases tool to strengthen college and career planning

At the Council on Postsecondary Education, we believe one of the most important things we can do for students is help them understand earlier — and with greater confidence — how their interests, skills and classroom experiences connect to college, career and lifelong opportunity.

That is why CPE's Kentucky Advising Academy recently launched *A Roadmap for Career and College Advising for Kentucky Schools*, a new multi-grade advising tool designed to help educators support earlier, more intentional planning for students in middle and high school.

Developed in partnership with Education Strategy Group and shaped by feedback from hundreds of Kentucky advisors, the roadmap aligns K-12 career studies standards with high school graduation requirements and provides grade-by-grade learning experiences that help students explore careers, understand postsecondary options and build a clearer path for what comes next. The tool is available for free through Futuriti.org, our college and career advising website.

This work comes at a critical time. In 2024, only 47.5% of Kentucky high school students immediately enrolled in college courses, and more than 2,600 students entered a Kentucky public







Aaron Thompson
CPE President

college without a declared major. Those numbers tell us too many students are still reaching major transition points without a clear plan. Better advising can help change that.

Two of the biggest challenges facing our students are mental health and debt, and both can be improved through stronger advising. When students have time to explore their interests, understand their options, connect courses to career goals and plan for the financial impact of postsecondary education, they are more likely to move forward with confidence and less likely to accumulate avoidable debt.

The roadmap also connects students to opportunities that lower costs and strengthen preparation, including dual credit, career and technical education, summer bridge programs and work-based learning.

Four focus areas across every grade

 <p>Career Exploration Interest surveys, career clusters, occupations research, and connecting interests to career paths</p>	 <p>Postsecondary Opportunities Degree types, postsecondary pathways, early college options, and application processes</p>
 <p>Financial Literacy Budgeting, saving, credit, scholarships, FAFSA, and connecting education to financial outcomes</p>	 <p>Essential Skills Social capital, goal-setting, networking, leadership, and professional communication</p>



Each grade level addresses all four focus areas, ensuring students develop well-rounded knowledge and skills throughout their journey. View the *Roadmap for College and Career Advising* at futuriti.org.

Kentucky already has strong statewide frameworks to guide the alignment between the classroom and the workforce: CPE's Graduate Profile and KDE's Portrait of a Learner. Together, these frameworks define the skills students need not only to complete a credential, but to succeed in the workplace and contribute to their communities.

By connecting early advising, essential skill development, career exploration, postsecondary planning and workforce alignment, Kentucky can create a more coherent pathway for every learner.

Ten Kentucky school districts will pilot the new advising roadmap over the next year, but all districts are welcome to use and adapt it now. We look forward to continued partnership with KDE, local districts and the Kentucky Board of Education as we work together to ensure every student graduates with a clearer plan, stronger skills and greater confidence in their future.

Report finds dual credit increases the likelihood of postsecondary enrollment

According to a new report by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the likelihood of dual credit participants enrolling in college directly after high school is 72%, compared to just 53% for non-participants. Additionally, each successive dual credit course makes postsecondary enrollment more likely.

This report confirms that providing opportunities to earn college credit while in high school motivates students to pursue postsecondary education. It examines the types of dual credit courses most associated with postsecondary enrollment. Courses taught by high school teachers, either on a high school or college campus, produce a higher likelihood of postsecondary enrollment than courses taught by college professors (online or in-person).

Predicted college enrollment probability by dual credit attempt status

