

Pre-Kindergarten to Career: Building a Seamless Pathway for Mississippi's Students

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mdek12.org



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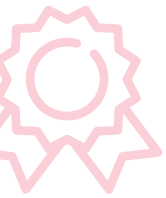
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



Bridge to Career Course

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Portfolio and Exhibit Option – Bridge to Career Course 5

The Bridge-to-Career course supports the MDE's mission of preparing all students for success beyond high school:

- This course offers an alternative graduation pathway for second-semester seniors who have not passed one or more End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and do not meet the criteria for other options.
- Through focused career exploration and professional portfolio development, the course equips students with the essential skills, credentials, and experiences needed to transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

<https://mdek12.org/secondaryeducation/bridge-to-career-course/>

- (A) do not obtain a passing score on one or more End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and
- (B) do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025.

- **Prior to enrolling in this course, students shall:**
 - Demonstrate a commitment to targeted remediation and improvement
 - Maintain an overall 2.0 GPA during the junior and senior year
 - Have an overall attendance rate of 83% or higher during the junior and senior year. Any absence excused or unexcused will count against this record.
 - Receive no more than six (6) nonviolent referrals during the students' junior and senior years. Students with violent behavior referrals may be ineligible for the course at the Superintendent's discretion.
 - Assess each time the EOC assessment is administered
 - Obtain written recommendation from the District Superintendent and school principal

EOC Remediation: Prior to enrolling in the Bridge-to-Career Course, students who have not passed one or more of the EOC assessments shall undergo remediation. The school shall provide targeted support for these students, addressing the specific areas in which they did not meet the required standards. Documentation of a student's EOC remediation shall be maintained in their cumulative folder.

Reassessments: Students shall demonstrate progress in their deficient knowledge and skills before being considered eligible for enrollment in the course. Student progress does not have to be reflected through EOC retest scores but can be shown through intervention and remediation assessment methods.

Course Enrollment: Students shall be enrolled in the Bridge-to-Career Course **no sooner than during the final semester** of the graduating year aligned with their ninth-grade cohort or peer-age cohort. The course shall be taken alongside other senior-year coursework.

- Districts on a traditional schedule or alternating block schedule will offer this course as a .5 Carnegie unit option.
- Districts on a 4X4 or 5X5 block schedule will offer this course as a 1.0 Carnegie unit option.

Grading and Completion: Students must achieve a grade of C or higher in the Bridge-to-Career Course for the course to substitute for one or more EOC assessments.



Build a Professional Portfolio: Students shall work collaboratively with the school counselor, Work-Based Learning teacher, Career Coach (if the school participates in the State, regional or district Career Coach Model) and/or the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop a comprehensive Commencement Level Career Plan that includes at the minimum:

- Academic achievements (projects, essays, assessments).

- Extracurricular involvement (clubs, sports, volunteer work).

- Career-related documents (professional resumes, cover letters, certificates).

- Personal reflections on the learning process and career aspirations.

Professional Resume: Students shall create a professional resume tailored to a specific job or career path of interest. This resume should highlight skills, achievements, and work experiences, giving students a practical tool for post-graduation employment or college applications.

Training and Credentials: Students shall have the opportunity to complete specific training programs or earn certifications from an approved MDE list related to their career goals. This may include job-readiness programs, technical certifications, or specialized training relevant to industries they wish to pursue.

Job Shadowing and Career Exploration: Students shall work with the Bridge- to- Career Course teacher to explore potential careers, gain insight into job markets, and understand the skills needed for success in their chosen fields. Students should work with the school counselor, Work-Based Learning teacher, and/or Career Coach (if the school participates in a State, regional or district Career Coach Model) and/or the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to engage in job shadowing or other work-based learning activities. This will provide students with real-world experience and insight into potential career fields, enhancing their employability and professional development.

- Students who do not meet the required criteria for course completion (i.e., earning a grade of C or higher) or who fail to submit a complete portfolio, and exhibit shall not be eligible for graduation. In such cases, students may be referred for additional support.
- A school's overuse of the Bridge to Career course may result in an audit of the course, student eligibility, and artifacts for student completion.

2025-2026	New	Non-Subject-Specific	060805	BRIDGE TO CAREER	A new course that districts may start offering to students in Spring 2026 that provide students who (A) have not passed one or more EOC assessments and (B) do not meet the criteria outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025, or demonstrate readiness for graduation through alternative means. This course emphasizes development, career exploration, and remediation to ensure that all students have the documentation needed to transition successfully to post-secondary endeavors. Students must meet all enrollment and eligibility requirements established by the State outlined in Appendix A-5 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
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- Any secondary licensed teacher can teach the course.
- It is recommended that the licensed teacher cares about the students and the course and student outcomes.

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