

The Bridge-to-Career Course

Informational Webinar for First-time Participants

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Vision, Mission & Strategic Plan Goals

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

Strategic Plan Goals

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
4. **Every** School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
5. **Every** Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
6. **Every** School and District is Rated "C" or Higher

Webinar Norms



Ensure microphones are

MUTED



Type questions in the

CHAT



Keep questions

RELEVANT

Course Overview

Course Overview

The Bridge-to-Career Course offers qualifying seniors who have not passed one or more End-of-Course Assessments (EOCs) an additional option for meeting graduation requirements.



Through focused career exploration and portfolio development, the course equips students with the essential skills, credentials, and experiences needed to transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.



Connecting School to the Real World



**Career
Exploration**

**Career
Documents**

Portfolio

Exhibit

Course Goals

- ✓ Identify career interests and strengths
- ✓ Engage in authentic experiences
- ✓ Develop workplace and technical skills
- ✓ Earn at least one certification
- ✓ Build a professional portfolio and exhibit

Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ **Qualifying senior on track for graduation**
- ✓ **Failed one or more EOC assessments**
- ✓ **Commitment to targeted remediation**
- ✓ **Assess during each EOC retest**

PLUS the following during the junior and senior year (returning senior) OR three semesters prior to enrollment (current year senior) :

- ✓ **Minimum GPA of 2.0**
- ✓ **Have an overall attendance rate of 83% or above**
- ✓ **No more than six (6) nonviolent discipline referrals**

Enrollment Requirements

- ✓ **Fall Semester-returning seniors from the previous school year (ex., Class of '26 Senior)**
- ✓ **Spring Semester-seniors of the current school year (ex., Class of '27 Senior)**
- ✓ **Students shall be enrolled within two (2) weeks of the start of the semester**
- ✓ **Seniors who still have not passed an EOC during the December retest must be enrolled in the class when school resumes in January**

Unit Exploration

Unit 1: Career Exploration and Workplace Readiness

Overview

Students conduct structured career exploration aligned with their interests and goals, gain hands-on exposure to workplaces, and earn an industry-recognized certification.



Unit 1 Competencies

Career Exploration	Workplace Readiness
Research career paths and interests	Practice employability skills
Participate in exposure activities	Earn an MDE-approved certification
Explore postsecondary options	Complete 8-12 hours of hands-on experience

Acceptable vs. Unacceptable Career Experiences

Acceptable Experiences

Job shadowing or internship
Apprenticeship / Mentorship
Volunteer or part-time professional role

Unacceptable Experiences

Family business or relative supervisor
Current or previous employment
Informal work (babysitting, yard work)

Unit 2: Career Documents and Interview Preparation

Overview

Students learn to present themselves as competitive candidates through professional resume, cover letter, and interview practice.



Unit 2 Competencies

- ➔ Create and refine a professional resume
- ➔ Write a targeted cover letter
- ➔ Compile professional references
- ➔ Complete accurate job applications
- ➔ Prepare for job interviews

Unit 3: Portfolio Development

Overview

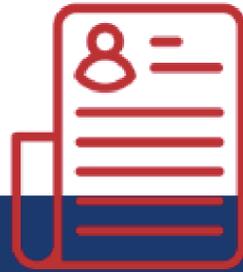
Students compile evidence of learning and professional growth, including academic work, career artifacts, and reflections that demonstrate readiness.



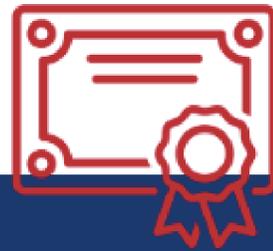
Portfolio Components



Career research
summaries



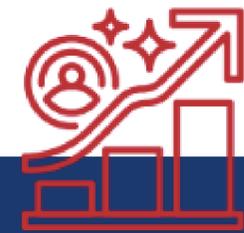
Resume and
cover letter



Certification
documentation



Career
experience
logs/photos



Reflection and
career plan

Unit 4: Exhibit Creation and Presentation

Overview

Students showcase their learning in a professional exhibit and oral presentation to a panel of educators, counselors, and community partners.



Exhibit Expectations

Select 5+ artifacts showcasing growth	Include reflections and captions
Deliver an 8-12 minute presentation	Use multimedia for engagement
Respond to panel questions	Demonstrate professional communication

Successful Implementation Tips

District & School

- Purposeful teacher selection
- Timely parental engagement
- Build & support community partnerships
- Protect course integrity & monitor progress

Teacher

- Maintain course integrity
- Pre-approve career experiences
- Apply rubrics consistently
- Engage parents early and often
- Coordinate with Career Coach & Counselor to build robust student experiences
- Build community partnerships

Career Coach

- Forge positive partnership with teacher
- Guide students in exploring career interests & strengths
- Serve as the connector

Assessments & Certifications

Assessment

Rubrics (Appendix B) guide evaluation

Assessments = written work + multimedia presentations + performance tasks

Certifications

Students must earn at least one MDE-approved certification

Examples: OSHA-10, ServSafe, WorkKeys

Schools offering the Bridge-to-Career Course are subject to being audited each year.

- Minimum of two (2) visits during semester
- Unannounced (initial) and announced visits (scheduled)
- Schools must maintain information that includes the following:
 - Class roster
 - Educator license with 7-12 endorsement
 - School remediation plan
 - Records for each eligible enrolled student which includes the following:
 - Proof and verification of GPA, attendance, and discipline requirements
(Returning Seniors: calculate junior and senior year; Current Year Seniors: calculate junior year and 1st semester of senior year)
 - Documentation of targeted student remediation **w/artifacts** (before and during enrollment in course)
 - End-of-Course Score Reports (justifying placement & all retests)
 - Districts report data to MDE upon request
 - Participate in debrief & follow-up with MDE when applicable

Final Thoughts/Reminders

- Allow appropriate time for planning and prep (3-6 months)
- Be strategic in planning remediation courses and programs
- Begin identifying students at end of 10th grade
- Utilize Parent Informational Meetings & Student/Parent Compacts
- Adapt plans to fit your context without sacrificing course integrity
- Course Availability: Returning Seniors (Fall); Current Year Seniors (Spring)

The Bridge to Success

Bridge-to-Career gives Mississippi seniors an alternative pathway to graduation while helping them build career-ready skills and real-world experiences.

Questions?

Visit our FAQ Document and send additional questions to secondaryeducation@mdek12.org



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