

HOW WILL PERSONAL PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS HELP ALL OUR STUDENTS?

Personal Pathways will provide all public school students in South Carolina with the resources to identify, explore and develop an education plan for their career and employment goals.

Elementary school students will learn about a variety of professions through career awareness activities.

Middle school students will explore a variety of careers to identify clusters of study relevant to their aspirations and abilities.

In 8th grade, all students will be asked to choose one of 16 career-focused clusters of study that will shape their curriculum.

With help from parents or parental designees and school counselors, all 8th grade students will write an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) that includes general graduation requirements, as well as coursework and out-of-classroom learning opportunities related to a student's chosen cluster of study.

Students will update their IGPs annually, giving them the flexibility to change their cluster of study should their interests change.

The ratio of school counselors, including state-funded career specialists, will improve to a maximum of 300:1 to ensure adequate counsel, attention and support for each middle and high school student.

New guidelines will make it easier for students to transfer credits between high schools and post-secondary institutions.

Regional Education Centers will be created online to connect students, educators and adults to occupational information, resources and training in the community.

At-risk students will be identified, and districts will offer programs to address individual needs.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Parents, businesses and local organizations are encouraged to help make this initiative a success. Here are some ways you can help.

AS A BUSINESS OWNER, ORGANIZATION MEMBER OR COMMUNITY LEADER, YOU CAN:

- Become an Ambassador and spread the word about Personal Pathways to Success.
- Volunteer your business or organization to partner with a Regional Education Center. Open your doors to students seeking opportunities for on-the-job learning.

AS A PARENT OR PARENTAL DESIGNEE, YOU CAN:

- Encourage your children to pursue their aspirations through continuous personal and professional development.
- Explore all post-high school education and career paths with your children.
- Provide input and guidance as your children plan and prepare for post-secondary study, further training or employment.
- Ask your children's school about ways your children can take advantage of the opportunities available through Personal Pathways.
- Talk to other parents about Personal Pathways.

Personal Pathways  to success™

To learn more about Personal Pathways to Success, visit www.scpathways.org or call 800.763.KIDS.

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Empowering all students to shape our future.™

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The clusters of study are:

WHAT IS PERSONAL PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS?

Created by the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005, Personal Pathways is an innovative way of connecting academic studies with preparation for entering the workforce. This will enable students to explore and prepare for career opportunities through a more relevant curriculum and firsthand experience, giving them a reason to be actively engaged in school and in their futures.

HOW WILL PERSONAL PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS HELP SOUTH CAROLINA?

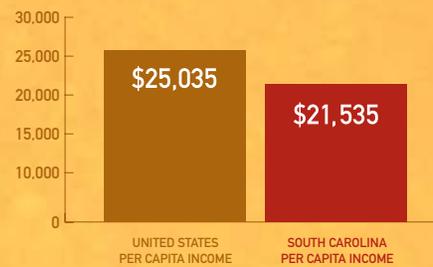
South Carolina is facing an education and workforce crisis. Great strides have been made in improving teacher quality and SAT scores, yet almost half of South Carolina's students do not graduate high school within four years.¹ In addition, more than one-third of 8th graders scored below the basic reading level in 2005.²

A gap has developed between the knowledge and skills our workforce possesses and the requirements of available jobs in the future.

85% of jobs require education or training beyond high school.³

Only 60% of students will seek education or training after high school.⁴

South Carolina has lost thousands of jobs to overseas competitors, and the per capita income is lower than that of most neighboring states.



In order to turn the state's economy around, higher wage jobs must be created and filled. One way to do this is by providing students—the future workforce—with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete with their counterparts in the global economy.

As students graduate and enter the workforce, the economy and standard of living will improve, creating a vibrant state with a bright future.

Better-prepared graduates will have the knowledge, skills and character traits necessary to close the workforce gap.

A better-educated workforce will raise the per capita income, increase productivity and help position South Carolina as a global competitor.

As educational institutions collaborate in new ways with business and industry, programs can be developed that align with the specific needs of South Carolina businesses.

Personal Pathways to Success is every student's right and every citizen's responsibility. Making this initiative a success is critical to South Carolina's future.

¹Education Week publisher research.

²Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2005 Kids Count report.

³Judy, R.W., D'Amico, C., and Geipel, G.L. *Workforce 2020: Work and Workers in the 21st Century*.

⁴1998–1999 State Department of Education Special Survey.