

Parents & Community Partners Career Cafe Tool Kit for Middle Schools

By the end of 8th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career cluster survey
- attend a career exploration day
- complete a unit on education planning
- be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should know:

- the concept of career clusters of interest
- relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary (PS)/career goals



The Kane County Income & Education Action Team (I & E) has a goal of increasing messages that reach middle school students and their parents about career exploration. Our I & E Action Team formed to support the career exploration activities that your middle school and other community organizations offer to your students. This is because we studied the health, education, and income data for Kane County and saw that increasing education levels is the best way to increase both income and health!

Kids learn best and dream more about career possibilities when they can see, talk, and listen to people actually engaged in various careers! Therefore, we have created a **Career Readiness Tool Kit** for middle school counselors and CTE Coordinators, modeled after the District 304 high school Community Partners Program.

Career Readiness Tool Kit Components:

1. **Sign-Up Form for parents and community members.**
You can personalize the form with your school logo, the dates you have career fairs/events scheduled and need volunteers, and the middle school representative for questions and issues. You can change the contact information and check boxes in any way that meets your needs.
2. **Sign to post at parent gatherings, the front office and other events.** Use this sign to attract attention of parents and community members! Personalize it for your needs.
3. **An online version of the sign up form** to post on the career readiness page of your school website. This may help reach more people, even beyond parents.
4. **A social media post sample** to promote your Parent and Community Partner Campaign. Potentially you can send messages through your electronic backpack and through Naviance too!
5. **Tips for Speakers & for Organizing a Career Cafe.**
6. **Process for follow up on volunteers.**

Access Online Forms and download the Kane County Income & Education Career Café Tool Kit components at www.kanehealthcounts/incomeandeducation