



Session Summary

Session 1 • July 6, 2021

Creating the Road to Success for Students in the Classroom: Workforce Development Pathways

Presenters: Molly Thomas, Connecticut Office of Workforce Strategy, and Shannon Marimón, ReadyCT

[Watch Session 1](#)

Overview

Career exploration is an integral part of an effective school system. Career readiness begins in schools and lasts a lifetime. By investing in **industry-aligned curricula, work-based learning** opportunities, and **college and career advising** and mentorship, schools and districts can offer students:

- Rigorous, **applied instruction** to aid with **learning recovery** in all content areas
- A meaningful way to **re-engage in school** after a difficult year
- A **pathway to a secure future**

Industry-Aligned Coursework

Aligning core and elective courses to industry demand is crucial for showing students the “why” behind their school work. It allows students to imagine a future in careers and industries they might never have imagined, and it provides a clear pathway towards a post-high school career or college degree.

Work-Based Learning

Work-Based Learning is a way for students to begin exploring and imagining their future. Job shadow and mentorship opportunities for younger students give way to internships and pre-apprenticeships for high school juniors and seniors.

College & Career Advising

Structured advising programs, offered by school guidance counselors, nonprofit partners, or industry volunteers, help students to envision their future and map out the steps they will take to get there.

Next Steps

The Office of Workforce Strategy and our industry and nonprofit partners can help school districts identify regional workforce training needs, cultivate partnerships, and leverage new and existing resources to support the launch or expansion of school-based workforce programming. Please contact [Molly Thomas](#) to learn more.