



OUR VISION

Each student graduates with clear pathways from school to prosperous career opportunities that are not predictable by social, cultural, gender, racial or economic factors.

OUR MISSION

Career Connect SW engages with K12, higher education, business, industry and the community to expand the skilled workforce through work-related learning opportunities that serve K12 students in every community in the ESD 112 region.

The Career Connect SW Network does this by:

- Collaborating with experts in education, workforce and industry to develop programs and share best practices that align the bridge from school to work.
- Creating opportunities for every student to engage in authentic problem-based learning based on high demand industry careers and to graduate STEM literate.
- Connecting teachers and business/industry partners to facilitate culturally-relevant learning opportunities and to support teachers in meaningful community engagement.

Three-Year Strategic Goals

BACKGROUND:

By 2030, it is estimated that 70% of all Washington state jobs will require education beyond high school.

- ➔ 67% of those jobs will require STEM skills
- ➔ 40% of students in the state are currently on-track to earn a postsecondary credential
- ➔ 23% of rural youth, youth growing up in low-income households, and youth of color are on-track to earn a postsecondary credential

OUR GOALS:

By the end of the 2023-24 school year our network will create the conditions to:

1. Increase the percentage of Southwest Washington graduating seniors who enroll in a post-secondary program within one year of graduation from 46% to 60%, and align career pathways that streamline dual credit opportunities and transition to post-secondary training in high-demand industry sectors, increasing credential attainment from 33% to 56%.
2. Narrow the participation gap for underserved students in Career Connected Learning by engaging 8,000 students per year in Explore and Prep programs, and double participation for those students currently the furthest from opportunity. Align the enrollment of underrepresented groups in Career Launch to meet or exceed regional demographics. (See identified underserved student data, page 2.)
3. Triple the number of rigorous engagements* between professionals in high-demand industries, students and educators to create opportunities for students to become STEM literate** and career ready alongside professionals that reflect their identity. These partnerships will lead to additional Career Launch endorsements to provide more than 2,000 students access to a program to earn while they learn.

* Extended student and industry engagement opportunities such as flipped internships that deepen learning and provide social capital.

** STEM literate individuals are able to use concepts from science, technology, engineering and mathematics to understand complex problems and to innovate with others to solve them, thus addressing the STEM skills gap in the foundational data.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Engage each member school district in developing a **community-based, student voice-informed plan to strategically integrate STEM & CCL** that focuses on students who are typically marginalized in obtaining postsecondary credentials.
- Build a data-driven understanding of which students are least engaged in STEM/CCL experiences, and **use targeted universalism to disrupt systemic inequities** in partnership with business, districts, teacher-leaders.
- Drive **regional awareness of Career Exploration, Prep and Launch opportunities** through consistent communication and stakeholder engagement such that over 8,000 students participate annually in career connected learning.
- Provide ongoing, **sustained engagement with more than 250 business partners** across high-demand industry sectors.
- Convene work groups to study, align and improve graduation pathways that will **focus on increasing dual credit, identifying barriers and eliminating gaps in enrollment and attainment for students from low-income, rural, and communities of color.**
- **Communicate data that identifies barriers** to career readiness and STEM literacy, beginning in early childhood.

CORE VALUES

Essential Understandings of Our Work:

- **Relationships** are the foundation of our Network. Building a common vision with partners and the communities we serve, we will dismantle systems that prevent each and every student from achieving their career goals.
- **Retention:** We aim to build a system that allows students to stay within their communities.
- **Opportunities** for students are maximized when partnerships lead to advocacy for systems change in education, policy and industry.

IDENTIFIED UNDERSERVED STUDENTS:

Priority groups for ESD 112, based on 2020-21 data.
[Click here for the full demographic data for our region.](#)

% Female



% Rural



% Low Income



% Latinx



2020-21 Participation data by demographic, compared to total regional population.