

# What would it take for every student in Nevada to be inspired and prepared for their lives after high school?

**The Nevada College & Career Ready (CCR) Framework** is an initiative of the Nevada Department of Education and part of the Future of Learning Network initiatives. It is intended to create a system of support that meets students where they are in their college and career journey; a system where all students can explore their dreams and are prepared to actualize a life that inspires and engages them. With a few focused, aligned

efforts, your school or district can move toward a more equitable and seamless system where all students have access and opportunity to attend college and prepare for a career.

*The College & Career Ready Nevada High School Graduate is prepared for the workforce and/or any postsecondary education program leading to a certificate, license, or post-secondary degree and to a livable-wage job.<sup>1</sup>*

## College and Career Ready Strategies

1

### College and Career-Focused Curriculum & Instruction

*Learning is contextualized, integrated and focused on being connected and relevant.*

2

### College & Career Exploration & Advising

*Student preparation is seamless, comprehensive, and flexible, with the agility to support evolving aspirations and opportunities.*



3

### Work-Based Learning

*Learning is aligned, applied, employer-engaged and focused on developing skills and credentials that are clearly connected with good jobs.*

4

### College & Career Preparation

*Support and exposure starts early, is highly-coordinated, and engages the student, family, school, and community.*

5

### Capacity & Culture

*Intentionally build and develop a holistic culture that engages and develops students, teachers and the community throughout the grade levels and programs.*

## 1. College and Career-Focused Curriculum & Instruction

*These practices support programs of study and classroom curriculum and instruction that bolster college and career readiness.*

Project-based and service learning are embedded within the curriculum, providing opportunities to apply knowledge in real-world projects and/or authentic scenarios.<sup>2</sup>

CTE and core course curriculum incorporates developing skills and competencies that help students succeed in the workplace.<sup>3</sup>

Pathways have sequenced courses that include curriculum aligned with multiple regional postsecondary pathways and/or industry needs, or leading to a certificate or credential.<sup>4</sup>

Students take one or more non-CTE course(s) with career-contextualized content.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. College & Career Exploration & Advising

*These practices expand students' awareness and knowledge of their college and career opportunities.*

All students have a high school academic plan<sup>6</sup> that includes their future postsecondary education and employment goals.<sup>7</sup>

Content in CTE and non-CTE courses connect with students' prior college and career exploration from earlier grades.<sup>8</sup>

Students have access to consistent adults that provide quality college and career information and advising.<sup>9</sup>

All students receive college and career exploration curriculum.<sup>10</sup>

Career goals and CTE skills, coursework and experience are integrated into students' college preparation, advising and planning activities.<sup>11</sup>

## 3. Work-Based Learning

*These practices offer students opportunities to connect classroom learning to authentic business/industry experiences that help inform and refine college and career pathways.*

Pathways offer a full continuum of work-based learning activities for all students (ie. training including job shadowing, apprenticeship, employer mentors, unpaid and paid internships with strong industry engagement/ advisement).<sup>12</sup>

Work-based learning experiences include sustained, meaningful interactions with business or industry professionals that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field.<sup>13</sup>

Students' outside, independent work experiences are integrated into students' college and career planning as an important building block for work experience and reflection on preferences.<sup>14</sup>

## 4. College & Career Preparation

*These practices help students get ready for life after high school and seamlessly connect to education programs and employment opportunities.*

Pathways provide students an option to complete a postsecondary credential, and/or career ready endorsements.<sup>15</sup>

Students have multiple ways to gain early college credit through dual and articulated credit that require student to enroll in the local community college or university in the process.<sup>16</sup>

Students are provided college visits, college and career fairs, or other career and college awareness activities.<sup>17</sup>

All high school seniors are supported to complete the FAFSA and applications for postsecondary programs and experiences and/or college.<sup>18</sup>

## 5. Capacity and Culture

*These activities create the day-to-day conditions that enable and support students throughout their educational journey.*

All students have access to career-focused program of study pathways aligned with multiple regional postsecondary pathways and industry needs.<sup>19</sup>

We intentionally build a holistic college and career culture that engages and develops students, teachers and the community throughout the grade levels and programs.<sup>20</sup>

Shared student outcomes reinforced and practiced across the curriculum (ie. critical thinking, basic workplace skills).<sup>21</sup>

A unified college and career ready plan incorporated into our school site/district-wide plans engaging all stakeholders.<sup>22</sup>

## References

These references provide the research base and inform the strategies and practices in the Nevada College & Career Ready Framework. They include research studies, peer-reviewed articles and volumes, and key state policies and resources.

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