

# Generic Middle School Career & Technical Education (CTE) Career Development Continuum

**Career Exploration: Grade 6 – 8**

**Career Awareness: Grade 5 – 8**

5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade		6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
<p><b>Establishing Career Awareness</b> Career awareness prepares students by introducing them to the meaning of the word “career” and exploring what that might mean for them individually. Career education should begin in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade as the first step of career development by introducing the concept of a “career” to students and beginning the students’ understanding of the different careers they may pursue.</p> <p><b>Sample Student Learning Outcome:</b> Students become aware of what a career is, can talk about some careers they have learned about, and are exposed to self-awareness for potential career likes and dislikes.</p> <p><b>Sample Experiences Might Include:</b></p>	<p><b>Career Awareness &amp; Self Knowledge</b> Career development begins with career awareness and knowing oneself. Helping understand and reflect on their unique, personal characteristics allows them to answer the first question in their career plan – Who am I? Interests, values, skills, personality type, and career beliefs are examined.</p> <p><b>Sample Student Learning Outcome:</b> Students become aware of their likes and dislikes and formulate career aspirations.</p> <p><b>Sample Experiences Might Include:</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge of the World of Work &amp; Education</b> As students progress in their learning and maturity, a deeper approach to career awareness takes place. Tying students’ understanding of the world of work to education is critical. They need to connect what they are learning in school to their dreams.</p> <p><b>Sample Student Learning Outcome:</b> Students can give examples of how their skills and interests related to career fields and occupations.</p> <p><b>Sample Experiences Might Include:</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Making &amp; Goal Setting</b> Career decisions further students’ understanding of themselves and of their options. Making decisions and setting goals advance students toward their future in a purposeful, personal, and meaningful way.</p> <p><b>Sample Student Learning Outcome:</b> Students recognize that their educational performance is important for reaching their goals and make decisions in a systematic way.</p> <p><b>Sample Experiences Might Include:</b></p>