

Resources for Developing the District Career Academic Plan



The district career and academic plan (DCAP) is a roadmap for implementation of the career and academic planning process and provides a living context for how each district supports their student's ICAP process. This plan can and should involve all curriculum areas. For guidelines to write your district's DCAP: [Iowa Department of Education](#)

Grades	Focus
Early Elementary	Introduce the world of work in a simple, engaging way.
Upper Elementary	Expand the concept of work, explore different careers, and introduce the idea of skill development.
Middle School	Foster self-awareness and broaden students' understanding of the world of work, and expose them to a diverse range of careers and pathways.
High School	Help students identify their interests, skills, and values, and connect them with potential career paths that align with these traits.

Grades	Activities
Early Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss different jobs: Show pictures of people working in various professions (doctor, teacher, firefighter, etc.). Ask students about what they do and how it helps people.Career Day: Invite parents or community members to talk about their jobs.Role-playing: Engage in simple role-playing activities where students can act out different job roles (e.g., a doctor giving a check-up to a stuffed animal)."My Future Job" drawing: Encourage students to draw a picture of what they think they might do when they grow up.
Upper Elementary (Grades 5/6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce books that explore various careers and the skills needed for them.Career Exploration PacketEncourage students to write about a career they find interesting and why.Integrate activities that help develop transferable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Career BINGO: A fun and engaging way to introduce students to various careers through questions or by drawing names from a hat.Career Exploration Bell Ringer Journal: Use daily warm-up activities or do-now exercises to spark discussion and research on career interests.Career Scavenger Hunt: Encourage students to research different careers and answer questions related to their requirements and opportunities.Career Fair: Organize a fair with representatives from various professions, allowing students to learn about different career pathways.
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Career PortfoliosCareer Trees \$



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Resources Compiled by L. Pulis, 2025

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