Shaping Tomorrow’s Industry Leaders

Denver Public Schools CareerConnect provides students with limitless college and career opportunities. Students enroll in rigorous industry-focused classes and can explore college and career pathways through work-based learning opportunities that include mentoring, internships, and more. Through these experiences, they learn the soft skills necessary to succeed in a 21st century workforce. Students can graduate with college credit, industry certifications, and receive preferential admissions to some of Colorado’s top universities. Since 2014, DPS CareerConnect has raised nearly $20 million in corporate, government, and philanthropic grants.

Getting involved with DPS CareerConnect is fun, easy, and is proven to boost employee morale. Companies can make a difference in the lives of countless students while growing their future talent pipeline.

DPS CareerConnect By the Numbers:

- 18,600+ students enrolled in K-12 programs in 2016-2017
- 30% higher likelihood of graduation
- 300+ company, higher ed, non-profit, and gov’t partners
- FREE to all DPS students
- 61 schools with DPS CareerConnect programs

College and Career Readiness for All Students:

At Denver Public Schools, our vision is that Every Child Succeeds. That starts with the belief that all students will achieve at the highest levels, and proudly cross the graduation stage ready for college, careers and life. One of our five goals in the district’s strategic plan — the Denver Plan 2020 — is to ensure our students graduate college- and career-ready and increase our four-year graduation rate for students who start with DPS in ninth grade from 67% to 90% in 2020. Our DPS graduates will take many paths to pursue their dreams, and our schools must prepare them for their future. The DPS CareerConnect program, which is part of the DPS Office of Postsecondary Readiness initiative, is a proven strategy for success after graduation. DPS CareerConnect prepares all students for their futures by providing them with diverse pathways that unify higher education and career readiness.

DPS CareerConnect has grown from 4,200 high school students in 2012-2013 to more than 8,600 high school students in 2016-2017. With the addition of STEMConnect, a new K-8 program, DPS CareerConnect added 10,000 elementary and middle school students in 2016-2017, for a total of 18,600 enrollees. In fall 2017, Denver voters passed a ballot initiative that provides DPS CareerConnect with sustainable funding -- a $5 million bond to be used for facility upgrades and an annually-recurring $4.8 million. This will enable DPS CareerConnect to continue its mission.

Graduation Rates
DPS CareerConnect students are 30% more likely to graduate when compared to their demographic and academic peers

Post-Secondary Readiness
Rigorous preparation for the workforce and higher education

ROI & Sustainability
Annual operating costs are relatively low for a very high return in student outcomes

Denver’s Human Talent Pipeline
Denver/Colorado can lead in human capital with a highly skilled and highly educated workforce

www.dpscareerconnect.org
The DPS CareerConnect Model:

DPS CareerConnect offers a continuum of engaging, project-based courses and work-based learning opportunities in relevant career pathways. Students typically take introductory survey courses in the beginning of high school, and then progress to more specialized classes in their industry of choice. Students graduate from CareerConnect with college credit, industry experience, and valuable soft skills.

Project-Based Learning Integration:

DPS CareerConnect brings learning to life through hands-on, relevant, and rigorous courses. Classes are taught by more than 160 state-certified high school teachers who possess industry experience and more than 50 elementary and middle school teachers.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is at the core of all DPS CareerConnect courses. PBL allows students to engage in authentic, relevant learning experiences that are connected to their community. Students exercise critical thinking skills and creativity as they choose the best approach to answer the project’s overarching question. They generate unique solutions to an open-ended question meant to better prepare them for college and career.

Last year, 280 educators received 120+ professional development sessions, with the average educator receiving 5 sessions during the school year through Project-Based Learning Integration Coaching (PBLIC).

The DPS CareerConnect team is endeavoring to reengineer PBL in order to make it rigorous and not as loosely defined—a common critique of PBL nationally. To that end, all of our PBL as of 2017-18 is moving to become competency-based, in which teachers and students will still have full autonomy in project design, selection, and execution, but will now have the ability to progress-monitor technical, academic, and soft skill acquisition within a course, and across a career pathway.

The Project-Based Learning Academy of Excellence launched in June 2017 with its first cohort of 50 teachers. Through the PBL Academy of Excellence, teachers will learn how to shift their pedagogy from traditional methods to project-based learning. Teachers attend a 3-day training where they design their first four projects to be implemented over the course of the school year. Each teacher receives individualized support from a DPS CareerConnect Academy Lead via classroom observations and project co-planning. Any DPS teacher (regardless of CareerConnect affiliation) can participate in our PBL offerings.
STEMConnect - Inspiring Our Youngest Learners:

STEMConnect is the K-8 component of DPS CareerConnect and is a new partnership with the DPS Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) office. The program provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Students engage in hands-on projects and gain skills, knowledge, and appreciation for the many fields and professions within STEM industries. During the 2016-2017 school year, 10,000 students were enrolled in STEMConnect programs across 36 elementary and middle schools. STEMConnect helps solve the challenge of students losing interest in pursuing STEM subjects and builds a pipeline of students primed to engage in the high school DPS CareerConnect curriculum sequences.

DPS CareerConnect High School Pathways:

In high school, students can opt into career pathways based on their interests and career aspirations. These pathways link to Denver’s high-opportunity industries and are dispersed throughout 28 high schools across Denver.

Sample Pathway - EngineeringConnect:

The following graphic represents the EngineeringConnect pathway at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College, Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design (DSISD), East High School, High Tech Early College (HTEC), Northfield High School, and South High School.

| Career and Technical Student Organization: Technology Student Association, SkillsUSA, Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TIER 1 | TIER 2 | TIER 3 | TIER 4 |
| Work-Based Learning: Career Coach Mentoring Program | Work-Based Learning: Career Coach Mentoring Program | Civil Engineering & Architecture (CE, C) (East, MLK, Northfield) | Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CE) (MLK) |
| Electronics Fundamentals (C) | Aerospace Engineering (CE, A) (East) | Environmental Sustainability (CE, A) | Digital Electronics (CE) (East, JFK, MLK) |

Key:
- **CE** - Concurrent Enrollment*
- **AP** - Advanced Placement
- **A** - Core Academic Credit
- **IB** - International Baccalaureate
- **C** - Industry Certificate**
- **P** - Preferential Admissions Agreement***

*concurrent enrollment available upon successful admission to college/university and passing scores in all course content
**industry certificates only available after passing exam or other certification requirements
***preferential admission is not guaranteed, must meet standards throughout course sequence

Work-Based Learning offerings vary by school.

www.dpscareerconnect.org
DPS CareerConnect offers a wide variety of company engagement opportunities ranging in time commitment, group size, and purpose. Our work-based learning staff can help you choose what's the best fit for your company and assist you in planning for the event or program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Company Is Most Interested In Providing...</th>
<th>Type of Engagement</th>
<th>Purpose / Intent</th>
<th>Time Commitment</th>
<th>Average Student Age</th>
<th>Approx. # of Students</th>
<th>Financial Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Exploration</strong></td>
<td><strong>CareerSpark</strong> Middle School Exploration Program</td>
<td>Get middle school students excited about STEM (science, tech, engineering, and math) and other fields.</td>
<td>2-3 hour event</td>
<td>12-13 years old [Grade 8]</td>
<td>14-28 students</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CareerX</strong> Industry Exploration Program</td>
<td>Provide exposure to your industry to students taking classes in your career field.</td>
<td>3-4 hour event</td>
<td>14-15 years old [Grade 9]</td>
<td>14-28 students</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>CareerCoach</strong> Mentoring Program</td>
<td>Develop a high-impact relationship with a student interested in your career field</td>
<td>4 hours per month (24 hours total)</td>
<td>15-16 years old [Grade 10]</td>
<td>10-20 students</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Career Preparation</strong></td>
<td><strong>CareerCollaborate</strong> Industry Consulting Program</td>
<td>Task students with designing innovative solutions to an industry-related problem/project</td>
<td>4-8 hours</td>
<td>16-17 years old [Grade 11]</td>
<td>10-20 students</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CareerLaunch</strong> Internship Program</td>
<td>Help young professionals become fully immersed in your industry, building their college and career portfolios while contributing to your company</td>
<td>Internships are 100-120 hours in the summer, fall, or spring semesters</td>
<td>15-18 years old [Grades 10-12]</td>
<td>Company chooses how many students to host</td>
<td>$900-$1,100 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Training</strong></td>
<td><strong>CareerResidency</strong> A DPS CareerConnect Program</td>
<td>Grow your talent through this innovative youth apprenticeship program! Students work in your company for three years, attend classes, and earn a free fully-stackable associates degree. In partnership with CareerWise Colorado.</td>
<td>Students work about 24 hours per week in your company for three years</td>
<td>17-20 years old [Grades 11-14]</td>
<td>Company chooses how many Career-Residency students to host</td>
<td>~$3,000 per student per term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other opportunities include: twice-annual industry summits with teachers, the 8th Grade Career Fair in November, classroom speakers, and more. Check out our monthly newsletter for ongoing opportunities.

*Adapted from the Colorado Workforce Development Council’s Work-Based Learning Framework

www.dpscareerconnect.org