New Foundations Course

College and Career Readiness Foundations (CCRF)

Course Overview

Students admitted into Career and Technical Education (CTE) College and Career Academies should enroll in this 9th grade year-long, single-period course, where they will begin the process of planning for their future and mastering basic skills needed for college and career success. The course can also be offered in any interested high school that has space in their schedule – for example, some schools may choose to use this course to supplant their freshman Computer Information Technology course. Curriculum can be made available in modules allowing schools to use course content in a variety of class and program settings.

Course Description: 4 Modules

1. Basic Technology Skills: Students will be able to describe the computer operating system, conduct internet research, demonstrate internet citation format and acceptable use of intellectual property; and implement basic skills Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint applications. (Technology skills are also integrated into the three other course modules)

2. College & Career Exploration: Students will research career options, explore career clusters, complete an inventory of interest areas and transferable skills, develop a college and job vision statement and a related high school course plan, along with preliminary budget for college. Students will research local businesses and a potential job shadow day and analyze how careers are impacted by current events and world change. Project-based learning will include application of critical thinking, writing and speaking skills, and goal setting.

3. Basic Financial Literacy: Students will develop financial literacy through experience with budgeting and money management and the relationship of finances to life and career goals. Students will design a budget which demonstrates the benefits of saving and investing and the cost of credit. Basic strategies to avoid credit fraud and identity theft will be explored.

4. College & Career Readiness / Employability: Students will develop employability skills in five areas, such as self-improvement, interpersonal skills, communication and career preparation. Using small and whole group exercises, role play activities, student self-assessments, and situational judgment questions, students will explore the “soft skills” needed for success in all careers. Students will set short and long term life goals and begin identifying strategies to achieve those goals.

Preferred Teacher certification: CTE recommends a business or information technology teacher, or a social science teacher with strong technology skills. Since the course is a non-core subject, NCLB does not apply in terms of requiring a certain type of teacher - i.e., there is no specific teacher requirement. If a school is proposing someone with a different background, whoever is selected need to attends the CTE sponsored training regarding the course.

Professional Development: Professional Development: CTE offers professional development for teachers programmed for College and Career Readiness.

Alignment to Consumer Education: This course covers many but not all of the state mandated requirements for Consumer Education (CE). If a school would like this course to count for CE, the following additional topics would need to be covered: understanding simple contracts, subprime loans, and understanding of the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system. Please contact CTE for more information.

CTE Contact: If you are interested in offering the course or have additional questions
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