

# Mercer E4E/ACP PLAN 2023



## **Department of Public Instruction:**

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is a part of Wisconsin's Education for Employment (E4E) program outlined in s. 121.02(1)(m) Wis. Stats., and is sometimes referred to as (administrative rule)PI26. In this guide, we refer to the plan that is required by administrative rule to be published annually by school districts as your "ACP/E4E Plan."

**Mission Statement:** We the staff, students, and community of Mercer believe that all students can become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a global society. Our mission is to inspire, challenge, and provide every student with the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

## **ACP PLAN** For Mercer School District:

### **LABOR MARKET INFORMATION**

**Describe how you analyzed local, regional, and state labor market needs and the educational and training requirements for occupations that will fill those needs. Describe how you used this information to inform programs and services offered to students.**

Our district uses the local, regional and state labor market data collected for us from the Great Northwest regional career pathway collaborative. We also use quarterly data provided to us by Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development which provides comparisons of our local region to the region and state.

This data is reviewed by our CTE department and Career Readiness team annually to determine our annual goals as part of our continuous improvement plan.

## **Describe how your program incorporates:**

- Career and technical education and other applied curricula
- Courses that provide advanced standing in the technical college district's associate degree program upon graduation from high school.
- College preparation (for all postsecondary options)
- Youth apprenticeship or other job training and work experience
- Instruction in skills related to employment

Our district uses career pathways to help students obtain the academic and career preparation needed for post secondary education and workforce. Within these pathways, students are offered the opportunities to take courses that teach the fundamentals of that journey along with providing options for advance standing, dual credit, industry recognized credentials, employability skills and work based learning experiences.

## **Early College Credit Program**

Students in grades 10-12 have the opportunity to earn up to 18 college credits at an accredited Wisconsin college or University. Students interested in this opportunity must be in Good Academic Standing and complete a separate application process. Students must apply by March 1st to Participate in Fall Semester and October 1st to participate in the Spring Semester.

Following approval by the Board of Education, students must be accepted at the College or University at which they apply.

More information about the Early College can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/dual-enrollment/eccp/application>.

Courses approved by the Board with no comparative course offered through Mercer School will be awarded 1 high school credit per semester in addition to the college credits earned.

## **Start College Now**

Students in grades 11-12 also have the opportunity to take courses through Wisconsin Technical Colleges through Start College Now. Similar to the Early College Credit Program at accredited colleges and universities, Start College Now allows students to take up to 18 credits during high school.

In order to participate students must be in good standing and complete the application process by March 1st for the Fall Semester and October 1st for the Spring Semester.

Following Board approval, the student must also be accepted by the Technical College at which they plan on taking courses. Courses approved by the Board with no comparative course offered through Mercer School will be awarded 1 high school credit per semester in addition to the post-secondary credits earned.

For more information visit

<https://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/educational-services/career-prep-dual-enrollment/start-college-now/>.

## **Youth Apprenticeship**

We work to provide youth apprenticeships in the following pathways: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Hospitality and Tourism; Architecture and Construction; Arts Audio/Visual Technology Communications; Health Science; Information Technology; Marketing; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Manufacturing; Business Administration; Finance; Transportation Distribution and Logistics.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF**

**Describe the professional development provided to staff to assist with delivering academic and career planning services to pupils in grades 6 to 12.**

We access DPI and CESA 12 offerings which provide a number of support activities and trainings including networking meetings for Career & Technical Education teachers, district offerings by CESA 12 to help districts realize a culture of Career Readiness K-12.

## **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

**Describe your process to engage parents and caregivers in academic and career planning. This includes, but is not limited to:**

- **Informing parents and caregivers in each school year about what academic and career planning services their student receives.**
- **Providing parents and caregivers with multiple opportunities during each school year to participate in their student's academic and career planning.**
- **Updating parents and caregivers throughout the school year on the progress of their student's academic and career planning.**

Our school will communicate with families and community members through a variety of channels, such as newsletters, email, phone calls, and social media, to keep them informed about school events, academic progress, and important announcements. Schools also hold regular meetings and events, such as parent-teacher conferences and open houses, to provide opportunities for direct communication and engagement. Additionally, schools may have a designated point of contact, such as a parent liaison or community outreach coordinator, to facilitate communication and support the needs of families and community members.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**Provide your district's strategy to engage businesses, postsecondary education institutions, and workforce development organizations in implementing the education for employment program.**

Our district will engage businesses, postsecondary education institutions, and workforce development through partnerships we have with CESA 12 and other collaborative networks in our community. In our community we have a partnership with Nicolet College. We will be attending college and career fairs and networking events to connect students with potential employers while also offering dual enrollment and other credit bearing programs allowing students to earn college or industry recognized credentials.

## ACP CURRICULUM, SUPPORT, AND SERVICES

**Describe how the school district will support pupils in academic and career planning, including:**

- **Scope and sequence of ACP activities/curriculum** [Link to Scope/Sequence](#)
- **ACP/school counseling services**
- **Provide pupils with information and opportunities that lead to career awareness, exploration, planning, and preparation. (see more details in next section)**

Academic & Career Planning/College & Career Readiness

Xello formally Career Cruising: Mercer High School utilizes the career development tool Xello. This tool allows students to develop a cumulative Academic and Career Portfolio. This tool allows you to participate in activities that will allow you to learn more about yourself as well as to document academic and career experiences that you have while you are in school.

Grade 9: In ninth grade credits become very valuable. Missed credits in required courses will need to be made up. Additionally, students will continually revise the plan for what they would like to do after graduation and engage in structured activities designed to help them learn about career skill development and college and career options.

Grade 10 Career Education: Students begin to narrow their career considerations and broaden their understanding of learning and post-secondary options. Students will continue to have structured activities designed to help them learn about career skill development and college and career options.

Grade 11: Reminder to continue to meet with your counselor. Annual event: Education Fair, Nicolet Career Day, a career pathway exploration day. All juniors are invited to explore career pathways they may be interested in. Students participate in hands-on learning and experience a day at a post-secondary institution to get a sense of options after high school.

Grade 12: Education Fair. All seniors will meet with their counselor at the beginning of their senior year to make sure they are on track to graduate and on track with their post-secondary plans.

## INDIVIDUAL ACP SUPPORT

**Describe how your district provides individualized support, appropriate to the pupil's needs, from school district staff to assist with completing and annually updating a student's academic career plan.**

Students are required to meet with their school counselor annually from 9-12. Individual office hours are provided to all students, and it is optional for students in 12th grade to have a parent/counselor meeting.

## ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

**Describe how a student's ACP plan is shared with the student's IEP team. (NOTE: The statute states that if a pupil is a child with a disability, the pupil's academic and career plan shall be made available to the pupil's individual education program team. The pupil's individualized education program team may, if appropriate, take the pupil's academic and career plan into account when developing the pupil's transition services.)**

Student's individual ACP plans are brought to the annual IEP meeting to review goals and activities outlined for that pupil starting in the school year the student turns 14. The IEP team works to develop a post-secondary transition plan (PTP) using information from the DPI, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, course offerings, student interests, Xello, and other sources.. The IEP team will have an opportunity to provide insight and guidance into the ACP plan and will also invite representatives from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist with transition.

## FORMAL ACP PROCESS

**Access to a formal process for connecting pupils to teachers and other school staff for assistance with the development and implementation of each pupil's academic and career plan.**

In Xello, students use the Plans feature to bring their explored options full-circle by creating an actionable plan with achievable tasks and pathways. Learn how saved careers, schools, and majors help students envision their own future pathway.

## ACCESS TO ACP SOFTWARE TOOL

**Share how your district provides access to an academic and career planning software tool that allows pupils to engage in career exploration and career planning and preparation.**

All school districts in Wisconsin are provided with Xello, which is an online program that fully engages every student in 6-12 with the skills, knowledge, and plans for future success. Students document their journey as they build self-knowledge, explore post-secondary options, create plans, and continually reassess as they take in new knowledge, skills, and experiences.

## CURRENT PROGRESS & FUTURE GOALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

**Share your district's current progress and future goals related to improving pupil postsecondary outcomes.**

We are monitoring our goals by meeting quarterly with a Career Readiness team and using data collected to monitor our progress. We are also using this data to determine future goals and monitoring the data collected in Xello to determine pupil postsecondary outcomes.

Current goals in progress include:

- Improve the individualized ACP/Career Readiness support our district provides to students
- Develop our district ACP scope and sequence

