

# FEBRUARY

## INDIVIDUAL CAREER ACADEMIC PLAN ACTIVITY TOOLKIT



Graduating high school can be difficult – taking the next step can be even tougher. After high school, many young Oklahomans find themselves without a job or plan to pursue a credential, certification or college degree. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act signed into law July 22, 2014 defines this group as Out of School Youth (also known as “Opportunity Youth”) – 16-24-year-olds not in school and with one or more barriers to employment (homelessness, parental responsibilities, disabilities or juvenile or criminal records).

**According to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, youth 16 to 19 years of age have an unemployment rate of 11.5%, while the state unemployment rate for all ages is 3.2%.**

*Employment rate for the time frame of August 2018 to July 2019: Statewide, not seasonally adjusted.*

**Offering community-wide career development events to your students can increase the likelihood that your students will have postsecondary success.**

## GETTING PREPARED

Oklahoma has a variety of high demand industries awaiting new talent. Use this month to encourage your students to research Oklahoma careers.

## DID YOU KNOW

**Over 70% of jobs available in Oklahoma in 2025 will require education beyond high school.**

*Oklahomaworks.gov*

## SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS

Ask students to refer to the [100 critical occupations](#) list to find high-demand careers, then use the ICAP online tool to research and record their top five career choices. After they use these tools, encourage your students to participate in the upcoming [Career Exposure Week](#).

## CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Encourage your families to research opportunities in growing industries with their students.

## ENGAGE POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Do you have a chamber of commerce leader, local bank branch manager, industry leader or human resource professional who can speak to students about the growing professions in your community? Use this [Sample Business / Community Engagement Letter](#) to reach out to community members and allow them to begin recruiting their future workforce. If it's difficult for you to find someone to visit your school, consider a virtual meeting via Skype, Zoho or a similar platform.

## CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENTS!

Share how we're working to prepare Oklahoma kids for the future by using these hashtags: #DreamBiggerOK, #OKDreamBuilders, #OKICAP and #OklaEd.

Spread the news on Facebook at [Oklahoma College and Career Readiness](#) or [Oklahoma State Department of Education](#) and on Twitter at [@oksde](#).

