

MARCH

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.



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
— CHAMPION EXCELLENCE —

EXPLORING CAREERS

Encourage your students to explore high demand careers in Oklahoma.

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS

During the month of March Oklahoma employers celebrate a week-long event to connect students with businesses to give our future talent an opportunity to explore the possibilities that await them in Oklahoma. Events during Career Exposure Week allow local employers to showcase critical careers in high-demand industries to inspire and recruit new talent and give our students a front row seat to experience the wide array of careers available within our state. For details on how students can explore careers during Career Exposure Week, [click here](#).

If you are interested in planning your own career exposure event, explore resources [here](#). Remember to encourage your students to add their Job Shadow Opportunity to their ICAP profile.

CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Encourage your families to talk with their students about how to speak with employers about job opportunities.

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](#).

