

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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 —

BUILDING A FINANCIAL STRATEGY

When families consider education beyond high school, cost can be a barrier. This month, help your students and families think through options when preparing for college or career training.

DID YOU KNOW

Oklahoma students can apply their FAFSA award towards both college and career technology programs.

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS

Career and technology education can be an excellent first step towards your students' career dreams. Connect with your local career tech center to learn options about financial assistance for your graduates so they can begin planning. [Student Financial Aid Guide](#)

CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Encourage your students and families to build a financial aid strategy for their futures.

- Use this [Financial aid planning document](#) that begins planning as early as middle school.
- Share scholarships for middle school students and practice completing applications in [middle school](#).
- Using these Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) resources, plan an event for your families and students that encourages your seniors and their families to complete a FAFSA application. Find [resources here](#) or [here](#).

ENGAGE POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Do you have a local bank branch manager, financial manager or accountant who can help speak to parents about tips for saving for college? Use this [Sample Business/Community Engagement Letter](#) to reach out to community members to help your families prepare financial strategies. Reach out to the [Oklahoma Money Matters team](#) for other resources.

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](#).

