



Division of Schools
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bostonpublicschools.org

Boston Public Schools Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Boston Public Schools is committed to providing all middle school students with equitable opportunities for career exploration and career-connected learning. Using MyCAP as the guiding framework, students engage in a journey that builds career awareness, fosters exploration of pathways and interests, and begins preparation for future opportunities. These efforts are integrated into content areas and aligned to school initiatives in connection with the Career Development MyCAP domain, which works alongside the Personal/Social and Academic Planning domains to provide a holistic student experience. This work ensures that every student has access to meaningful, developmentally appropriate experiences that grow in depth over time and are aligned to high-quality secondary options so that students enter high school ready to make informed choices connected to their long-term goals.

Each BPS Secondary School with Ch. 74 programming will visit select schools for an informational presentation and/or offer school tours for prospective students who are enrolled in grade 8 in Boston Public Schools.

Each school with Ch. 74 programming will offer one tour yearly during school hours with transportation provided, as needed. Student attendance will be taken at the tours. Grade 8 students will not receive an unexcused absence if the student's participation in the school-day tour is confirmed.

Each BPS Secondary School with Ch. 74 programming will also host an annual Open House to provide opportunities for families and students of any grade level to learn about each Ch. 74 program, meet educators, and see its facilities and equipment.

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School will hold at least two in-person information sessions and at least two virtual information sessions each school year.

A virtual tour of Ch. 74 programming will be offered online for students and families who are not able to attend an in-person tour or open house.

Informational materials about the BPS College and Career Pathway options will be disseminated through the annual BPS Guide, BPS email/ ParentSquare, BPS social media/website, and individual school-based recruitment efforts.

BPS will send an annual email to 8th grade families in their home language along with information on the school/district website describing the BPS College and Career Pathway options and the vocational admissions process.

Students and families are invited to attend the annual High School Showcase which features every BPS Secondary School and the college and career pathways they offer.

Students and families are invited to attend the Annual BPS College, Career, and STEM Fair which showcases institutes of higher education, college advising partners, career exhibitors including labor unions, STEM partners, and BPS College and Career Pathway options.

Students and families are invited to visit one of the [BPS Welcome Centers](#) to receive support on available Secondary School options, including college and career pathways, and high school registration/admissions processes.

Students and families may visit the [BPS Career and Technical Education webpage](#) for more information on BPS College and Career Pathways options. Students and families may also access the BPS Vocational Admissions webpage which includes events, admission policies, and applications.

Grade 8 students will complete a Career Exploration activity as part of their MyCAP scope and sequence that allows them to research careers that interest them in the online college and career advising platform. Students will be able to review the college and career pathway options in BPS that align with their career interests.

Through our implementation of MyCAP, exploration and awareness of secondary school options, including CTE programs, are connected to a student's academic and career planning experiences through intentional experiences and guided reflection. MyCAP provides a structure for students to engage in career exploration, document interests, and reflect on exposure opportunities offered across the district, such as showcases and open houses, linking these experiences to their evolving goals. It also creates an entry point for middle school staff to hold personalized planning conversations that help students consider how their interests align with secondary pathways. Staff can reference a student's MyCAP portfolio as part of the school choice and pathway exploration process. In alignment with our broader goals for middle grades career-connected learning, this process supports informed decision-making and prepares students to enter high school grades ready to pursue pathways that lay the foundation for long-term success.

See the Boston Public Schools MyCAP Scope and Sequence by grade level [here](#).