Holbrook Middle-High School Pathway Exploration Policy

Policy Overview

The Holbrook School District is committed to ensuring that all middle school students and their families are well-informed about the wide range of educational options available to them for high school, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) and vocational programs. In compliance with Massachusetts state regulations (603 CMR 4.00) and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this policy outlines how HPS provides students with awareness and exposure to CTE and vocational opportunities at local, regional, and agricultural public high schools.

Statement of Goals

Holbrook Middle-High School aims to:

- Expose all students to diverse career pathways and technical education opportunities
- Connect middle school learning experiences to future academic and career planning (MyCAP)
- Provide equitable access to information about all high school options available
- Support informed decision-making regarding secondary education choices
- Foster early career awareness and exploration through hands-on experiences

High School Pathway Options (3)

Career Technical Education Schools

Holbrook Middle-High School students interested in a CTE education can apply for enrollment in Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical School or Norfolk County Agricultural School.

1. Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical High School

Location: 800 Randolph Street, Canton, MA

Blue Hills offers the following CH74 Programs: Architecture/Engineering Technology; Automotive Technology; Business Technology; Computer Science; Cosmetology; Culinary Arts; Electrical; Electronics Engineering Technology; Graphic Communication & Design; Health

Careers; House & Mill Carpentry; Machine & Tool Technology; Metal Fabrication & Joining Technology.

Connection to Planning: Programs align with high-demand career fields and provide pathways to both immediate employment and post-secondary education

2. Norfolk County Agricultural High School

Location: 400 Main Street Walpole, MA

Norfolk County Agricultural Schools Offers the following: Animal Science, Environmental Science & Technology, Horticulture, Natural Resources Management, Plant & Soil Science, Agricultural Mechanics, Food Science & Technology

Connection to Planning: Programs connect to agricultural careers, environmental sciences, and sustainable technology fields with strong post-secondary partnerships

3. Traditional High School Option/ Holbrook Middle-High School

Location: Holbrook, MA

Middle School Career Exploration

The district will be adopting MyCAP for the 2026-27 school year. Counselors will be participating in DESE trainings throughout the fall and winter, and work will be done in January to begin planning out the schedule for each middle school grade level's participation in the program (using the DESE guide). Moving forward, the district's future implementation of My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) will directly connect the exploration of CTE schools and programs to a student's broader academic and career goals.

*MyCAP is a structured process that helps students explore their interests, skills, and values starting in middle school. This self-discovery process guides students as they research high school pathways and make informed decisions about which school environment best aligns with their emerging goals.

Collaboration with Member Vocational Schools

Holbrook Middle High School (HMHS) actively collaborates with member CTE/vocational schools to inform students about the CTE/vocational opportunities available to them. This collaboration includes:

- **Information Sharing:** Annually, middle schools will provide member CTE/vocational schools with the names, addresses, and email addresses of all enrolled sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students.
- **School Tours:** Each fall, eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to tour Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical School and Norfolk Agricultural School. Transportation expenses will be covered by Blue Hills or Norfolk. These tours are scheduled during the school day, and participation in the tour will be recorded as an excused absence.
- **Promotion of Events:** HMHS will share information about the Blue Hills and Norfolk Aggie Open Houses and informational events on the district website and through regular communication channels, such as principal newsletters and communication from the guidance office.
- **Application Interviews:** HMHS will provide opportunities at the middle school during the school day for vocational schools to schedule in-person interviews with students who have applied.
- **Online Resources:** By October 15th each year, the Holbrook School District website will publish pertinent information about vocational school options, including links to admission applications, admissions policies, and open house/informational event schedules.
- **Providing Admissions Records to CTE Schools**: HMHS will provide relevant information to member vocational schools for students who have applied. This may include documentation of student interest, attendance records, and discipline records in accordance with the vocational school's approved admissions policy and DESE guidance.

Maintenance of Records

Holbrook Middle-High School will maintain a record of all off-site presentations, assemblies, and student tours to CTE schools, along with other relevant information about collaboration between the district and member CTE/vocational schools. These records will be made available to DESE upon request.