Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Policy Information
Series I - Instruction

Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy
Policy # IE

Policy Overview
In accordance with Massachusetts state regulation 603 CMR 4.00, Bourne Public Schools has established this Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy to ensure that all middle school students are made aware of, and gain meaningful exposure to, programs available to them at the district and regional level, including traditional high school offerings, Innovation Pathways, Early College, and career technical education (CTE) schools.

Bourne Public Schools will:

- Collaborate with local and regional CTE schools to provide accurate, timely information about opportunities;
- Ensure all middle school students have the opportunity to tour CTE programs during the school day; and
- Connect exploration of traditional academic programming, Innovation Pathways, Early College, and CTE pathways to students' secondary and postsecondary academic and career planning through the use of MyCAP (My Career and Academic Plan).

This policy will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, with documentation that the policy has been implemented. The policy will also be posted on the district website and available in print upon request.

Statement of Goals
Bourne Public Schools is committed to:

- Providing equitable access to information and experiences that support career exploration for all students in grades 6–8;
- Ensuring that students and families understand the variety of high school pathways available, including traditional academic programming, Innovation Pathways, early college, and CTE programming;
- Connecting middle school experiences with individualized secondary and postsecondary planning through MyCAP;

- Preparing students to make informed decisions about their educational and career trajectories.

High School Pathway Options
Students in Bourne Public Schools have access to the following CTE and specialized secondary school options:

- Bourne High School: In-district programs including technical, college prep, and advanced coursework, Innovation Pathways programs, and Early College options.
- Upper Cape Regional Technical School: Comprehensive Chapter 74 programs available to district residents.

Each of these options provides academic and career pathways that may lead to industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary education, apprenticeships, and direct employment. The district will highlight how these programs align with student MyCAP goals.

Middle School Career Exploration
Through the implementation of MyCAP, Bourne Public Schools ensures that middle school students:

- Begin identifying strengths, interests, and values in grades 6–8;
- Explore career clusters and related pathways through classroom lessons, online tools, and WIN activities;
- Learn how various academic and CTE programs align to academic and career opportunities at the high school level;
- Use the MEFA Pathways tool to connect exploration to postsecondary planning, ensuring students and families can make informed choices.

Collaboration with CTE Schools
Administrators at Bourne Middle School will coordinate with the CTE program to:

- Provide email and mailing addresses by October 15 of each year;
- Provide in-school presentations by October 15 of each year if requested by the CTE administration;
- Provide student records to the CTE program at the close of the application period.

Middle School CTE Tour Policies
At the request of the CTE administration, Bourne Middle School will coordinate with the CTE program to schedule a chaperoned tour during the school day.

- Each middle school student will have the opportunity to participate in the chaperoned tour of the CTE program during the school day.
- The Bourne Middle School administration will coordinate with the CTE administration to schedule a tour date.

- Transportation costs will be covered by the hosting CTE school.
- Student absences will be considered excused when the CTE school confirms participation in a tour.

Records Sharing with CTE Schools
After the CTE admissions window closes, Bourne Public Schools will provide CTE schools with the records required under DESE regulations and school admissions policies, including attendance in grades 7 and 8, grades in grades 7 and 8, and discipline related 37H and 37H1/2, if applicable for admissions weighting.

Maintenance of Records
The district will maintain documentation of:

- Student participation in tours and exploration activities;
- Communication of opportunities via website, mail, and email;
- MyCAP completion by grade level;
- Information shared with CTE schools to support the admissions process.

Records will be maintained by the Bourne Middle School Principal in coordination with the school counselors.

Appendix: MyCAP Scope and Sequence

- **Grade 6:** Self-awareness activities, introduction to career clusters, initial goal setting.
- **Grade 7:** Career exploration lessons, use of digital career tools, connection to high school options.
- **Grade 8:** Postsecondary planning introduction, exploration of CTE pathways, completion of MyCAP milestone tasks, preparation for high school transition.

The district's MyCAP implementation is designed to ensure that career exploration at the middle school level is meaningful, developmentally appropriate, and connected to high school and beyond.

Adoption Date 10/1/2025

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