Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Purpose and Overview:

In accordance with Massachusetts regulations 603 CMR 4.00, the Webster Public School District (WPS) shall maintain a Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy that ensures middle school students are made aware of and gain exposure to career technical education (CTE) schools and programs available to them in the district, regional, agricultural, and other public high schools.

The goals of the Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy are to:

- Ensure equitable access for all middle school students to information about CTE and secondary school pathways. E.g., Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School (Bay Path)
- Provide structured opportunities for students to learn about career pathways in alignment with their future academic and career goals.
- Establish clear partnerships between the district and the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School (Bay Path) offering CTE.
- Support student readiness for secondary and postsecondary planning.

High School Pathway Options:

Students enrolled in WPS middle schools have access to a variety of secondary school options including:

- Bartlett High School Innovation Career Pathways and Chapter 74 programs
- Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School (Bay Path RVTHS)
- Other agricultural high schools available to students by application

These pathways provide academic, technical, and career-related experiences that support both college and career readiness.

Middle School Career Exploration:

The district shall provide middle school students with information about CTE programs and related careers through multiple methods including:

- Presentations delivered at middle schools by representatives from CTE schools and programs
- Written materials available in the school and distributed by email
- Information posted on the district website

Middle School CTE Tour Opportunities:

The district will ensure that all middle school students have the opportunity to participate in tours of CTE schools and programs during regular school hours. Transportation costs for these tours shall be assumed by the school hosting the tours.

Students who participate in approved tours shall not receive an unexcused absence, provided that the CTE school or program confirms attendance.

Collaboration with CTE Schools and Programs

The district will collaborate with CTE schools and programs to inform students about opportunities, admission timelines, and expectations. Webster Middle School will share names and addresses of all 7th and 8th graders by Oct. 15, as required by the regulations.

Records and Admissions Support

The district will provide information to CTE schools and programs in support of the admission process, consistent with state and federal laws. Middle school records shared with CTE schools and programs for admissions should be limited to the information needed for determining admissions lottery weights.Only attendance, discipline, and student interest information related to the CTE school/program's admissions policy will be shared.

The district shall also maintain documentation of student participation in tours and other activities related to this policy.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed and updated as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 4.00

First Reading : November 18, 2025

Second and Final Reading: December 9, 2025

Update and Approval: January 13, 2026