

NMRSD Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Purpose:

The NMRSD Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy is established to help middle school students and their families make informed choices about high school and future careers. This policy, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, ensures that all students are introduced to various career and technical education (CTE) pathways. This policy is mandated for districts that are members of a regional school district, which includes NMRSD, or that have access to state-designated CTE programs.

Compliance:

NMRSD will submit this policy to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by November 1, 2025. The district will also provide annual attestations of its implementation to DESE. Each middle school office will maintain documentation of compliance with the components described herein (including the release of student information, student participation in tours, dissemination of promotional information, etc).

Key Components:

The NMRSD Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy will be implemented through the following:

- **Collaboration:** The district will collaborate with regional CTE schools, such as Nashoba Valley Technical High School and Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, to provide middle school students with information about CTE programs and career opportunities. The district will share the email addresses of 7th- and 8th-grade parents with these institutions by October 15th to facilitate communication. NMRSD will provide a public notice to inform parents and eligible students that it plans to release these email addresses to CTE schools. After this notice is given, parents and eligible students will have one week to opt out and request that their information not be shared without prior consent. The North Middlesex Regional School District will release relevant information to CTE schools regarding students who applied (i.e., lottery weights, including attendance, discipline, student interest, and promotion).
- **Awareness and Information Dissemination:** By October 15th of each school year, the district will offer CTE schools and programs opportunities to provide information to middle school students in the following ways:
 - On-site visit to the middle schools.
 - Through mail and email correspondence.
 - On the middle schools' public-facing websites
 - Written communication to students and parents upon request.
- **Exposure & Tours:** Students will have the opportunity to tour CTE facilities and programs during regular school hours. The hosting school will be responsible for covering transportation costs for these tours. A student will be excused from school to attend a CTE school tour.

- Academic & Career Planning: Pathway exploration will be connected to each student's secondary and postsecondary academic and career planning, helping them align their interests with future educational and professional goals.

Adopted by the School Committee:

Policy Subcommittee Review: March 3, 2026

NMRSD First Vote:

NMRSD Adoption: March 10, 2026
