



Medford Public Schools
Medford High School Office of Career and Technical Education
489 Winthrop Street
Medford, MA 02155

Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Approved 10/6/25 Medford School Committee - Revised/Approved 4/13/26

Policy Overview

Medford Public Schools 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 our district provides students with awareness and exposure to CTE and vocational opportunities at local, regional, and agricultural public high schools.

High School Pathway Options

The following CTE programs are available to students:

Auto Technology
Biotechnology
Business Marketing
Carpentry
Construction and Craft Laborers
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts
Early Childhood
Electrical
Engineering and Robotics
Film and Television
Graphic Design
Health Assisting
Metal Fabrication
Programming and Web Development

Middle School Career Exploration

The district will continue to implement My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP), which directly connects the exploration of CTE 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, whether a traditional high school or a specialized CTE program or vocational program, best aligns with their emerging goals.

Additionally, all middle schools in the district will actively collaborate with Medford High School to inform students about the CTE/vocational opportunities available to them. This collaboration includes:

- **Promotion of Events:** We will share information about the vocational school Open House and informational events on the district website and through regular communication channels, such as principal newsletters.
- **Information Sessions:** Each year, there will be CTE information sessions, both virtual and in-person, for families and students to learn more about CTE opportunities at Medford High School.
- The district will provide all middle school students with the opportunity to tour CTE programs during regular school hours, with transportation costs covered by the district.
- The district will allow student participation in a CTE program tour to be considered an excused absence.
- **Online Resources:** By October 15th each year, the district website will publish pertinent information about vocational school options, including links to admissions policies, and open house/informational event schedules.

Maintenance of Records

Our district middle schools will maintain a record of all on-site presentations, assemblies, and student tours to CTE programs, along with other relevant information about collaboration between the middle schools and high school. These records will be made available to DESE upon request.