



NEW! *District 131 College and Career
Pathway Endorsements*

What is a Career Pathway?

According to the Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary, a career pathway is a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that aligns both vertically and horizontally across secondary education, adult education, workforce training and development, career and technical education, and postsecondary education systems, pathways, and programs. Collaborative partnerships with these entities, business and industry, and other community stakeholders, serve as the foundational structure for high-quality and sustainable career pathways. A career pathway also includes multiple entry and exit points to facilitate individuals to build their skills as they progress along a continuum of education and training and advance in sector-specific employment.

What is a College and Career Pathway Endorsement (CCPE)?

The Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act establishes a voluntary system for school districts to award College and Career Pathway Endorsements on high school diplomas. The endorsement simultaneously demonstrates students' readiness for postsecondary programs and entry-level professional learning experiences in a selected career interest area. The endorsement also incentivizes career exploration and acceleration, particularly in high-demand career fields. College and Career Pathway Endorsements reflect that a student has completed an individualized learning plan, engaged in a career-focused instructional sequence, participated in work-based learning, and demonstrated readiness for college-level reading and math.



College and Career Pathway Endorsement Framework



INDIVIDUAL PLAN

Each student completing an endorsement must have an individualized plan, which includes college planning linked to early understanding of career goals, financial aid, resume, and personal statement.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Awareness, exploration, and preparation activities that provide opportunities for students to interact with adults in their workplace

9th	10th	11th	12th
At least 2 career exploration activities or 1 intensive experience		60 cumulative hours of paid or credit supervised career development experience with a professional skills assessment	
At least 2 team-based challenges with adult mentoring			

Through these experiences, a student gains essential employability and technical competencies in their identified sector.

CAREER-FOCUSED INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

Two years of secondary coursework, or equivalent competencies, that articulate to a postsecondary credential with labor market value. Must include at least 6 hours of early college credit.

9th	10th	11th	12th
Orientation / Introduction			
		Skill Development	
		Capstone / Advanced Courses	

ACADEMIC READINESS

Ready for non-remedial coursework in reading and math by high school graduation through criteria defined by district and local community college

What are the requirements for a student to earn a College and Career Pathway Endorsement?

The College and Career Pathway Endorsements framework requires:

An individualized learning plan: Each student completing an endorsement must have an individualized plan, which includes college planning linked to early understanding of career goals, financial aid, resume, and personal statement.

Professional learning: Students participate in career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities that provide opportunities to interact with adults in their workplace

At least two career exploration activities or one intensive experience.

At least two team-based challenges with adult mentoring

60 cumulative hours of a paid or for-credit, supervised career development experience culminating with a professional skills assessment

Career-focused instruction: Students complete two years of secondary coursework, or equivalent competencies, that articulate to a postsecondary credential with labor market value. Must include at least six hours of early college credit

Academic readiness: Students are ready for non-remedial coursework in reading and math by high school graduation through criteria defined by the school district and local community college

How does a student express interest in earning a CCPE?

Students interested in earning a College and Career Pathway Endorsement must meet with their Counselor and inquire in detail about the interested pathway and how to complete the pathway.

What Pathways are currently available at East Aurora High School?

Elementary and Secondary Education

Manufacturing-Welding

College and Career Readiness Maps

The following maps offer suggestions of when courses should be taken in order to complete the CCPE. Not following the maps could lead to not completing the necessary courses to earn the endorsement

Elementary and Secondary Education Human & Public Services

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Career Focused Courses	Family and Child Development			
			Introduction to Teaching	
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Student Choice	Student Choice
Social Science	World History	Elective of Choice	US History	American Government/ Personal Finance
Math	Choose 1: Algebra I Geometry	Choose 1: Geometry Algebra II	Algebra II/ Higher Level Math (Student choice)	Student Choice
English	English I	English II	English III	English IV

Manufacturing and Welding

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Career Focused Courses	Intro to Manufacturing			
	Engineering			
			Welding Technology I	
			Welding Technology II	

Science	Biology	Chemistry	Student Choice	Student Choice
Social Science	World History	Elective of Choice	US History	American Government/ Personal Finance
Math	Choose 1: Algebra I Geometry	Choose 1: Geometry Algebra II	Algebra II/ Higher Level Math (Student choice)	Student Choice
English	English I	English II	English III	English IV



EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
CERTIFICATIONS
2025-2026

NJROTC FAA Drone Pilot Certification

EAHS NJROTC Drone Team—a program led by the East Aurora NJROTC designed to provide hands-on aviation education and FAA Part 107 drone certification training to East Aurora High School students.

Program Overview

- **Location:** EAHS NJROTC Virtual (Google Classroom), Field House, NJROTC spaces, and adjacent airspace
- **Mission:** Deliver aviation and drone operations education with opportunities for FAA certification
- **Frequency:** Meets twice a week Tuesday and Thursdays, starting beginning of the school year.
- **Eligibility:** Open to all **EAHS students** (must have a valid Student ID). NJROTC membership is not required
- **Supervision:** Facilitated by NJROTC instructors using NJROTC-owned drone equipment
- **Accountability:** Membership roster and weekly attendance maintained. Students may be dismissed for leaving EAHS or causing intentional equipment damage

Curriculum & Certification

All participants receive **lifetime access** to the FAA 107-aligned online course provided by The Drone Coach. This comprehensive training includes:

- Minimum age and requirements to operate sUAS in the U.S.
- Controlled vs. uncontrolled airspace
- Understanding Classes B, C, D, E, and G airspace
- Sectional chart interpretation in the National Airspace System
- Weather theory and real-world interpretation (METAR/TAF)
- Radio communications and pilot phraseology
- Flight dynamics, load factors, and center of gravity
- Emergency procedures and crew resource management (CRM)
- Physiological factors and decision-making for safe operations

FAA Part 107 License Details

- **Cost:** \$175.00
- **Covered 100% by NJROTC** for actively participating cadets
- The FAA Part 107 license enables students to legally operate drones for **commercial purposes**, enhancing resumes, opening job opportunities in public safety, construction, cinematography, agriculture, and logistics.

Program Impact

Over the past three years, **19 EAHS students have earned their FAA 107 drone pilot certifications** through this program—equipping them with real-world credentials before graduation.

We're excited to expand this opportunity to the wider student body and would greatly appreciate your support in making Drone Team a permanent, district-approved enrichment program.