



GOAL AREA	STUDENTS
STRATEGY	Explore and expand student offerings for career exploration/pathways, personal interests, and authentic learning experiences at all levels
RATIONALE	In alignment with the D95 Instructional Model, this action plan is designed to strengthen career exploration and college and career readiness by aligning the 6 th -grade Transition course to the Illinois PACE framework and expanding pathway opportunities for students. Collaboration among teachers, counselors, administrators, and instructional leaders will ensure engaging, future-focused learning experiences that reflect student interests and workforce trends. Student interest survey data and pathway analysis will guide the development of additional pathway opportunities and authentic learning experiences. Additionally, this action plan will support underrepresented students to understand a diverse pool of career possibilities. This includes closing potential gender gaps in courses such as engineering. Submission of new pathways to the Illinois State Board of Education will support continued innovation and expanded opportunities for students.
ACTION PLAN TITLE	Expanding Career Exploration and Student Pathways
ACTION PLAN STEPS	<u>Transition Course</u> ● Reimagine the 6th-grade Transition course to embed career-exploration activities aligned with the PACE framework ○ Facilitate curriculum writing committee consisting of Transition course teachers, district administrators, middle school counselors, building administrator(s), TOSA, coach, and AI Teacher Leader <u>Pathway Offerings</u> ● Expand current pathway offerings ○ Design and launch an interest survey for students ○ Identify current courses that create additional pathway(s) ○ Identify any new possible career and certificate-based opportunities based on student feedback ○ Work with High School Leadership to create a Team-Based Challenge ○ Submit the proposed pathway(s) to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval
TIMELINE	The anticipated date of completion is scheduled for Spring 2027.

**PROGRESS
MONITORING
STEPS**

Transition Course

- Conduct a needs assessment survey of current 7th and 8th-grade students
- Review Illinois PACE framework benchmarks and identify priority competencies for 6th grade
- Facilitate curriculum writing committee meetings to redesign units and embed career-exploration experiences
- Develop career-exploration lessons incorporating career clusters, interest inventories, employability skills, and AI/career readiness connections
- Maintain a record of Transitions Committee meetings, including agendas, participant attendance, and instructional drafts
- Create shared access to Transitions course materials on the Connected95 internal website

Pathway Offerings

- Conduct a review of enrollment trends, labor-market data, and student participation to identify gaps and opportunities for expansion
- Design and launch a student interest survey to gather feedback on career interests, desired pathway opportunities, and postsecondary goals. Ensure the survey provides opportunities for students to share interests in all career areas including social work, culture, sociology, etc.
- Analyze survey data to identify high-interest career clusters and potential new pathway areas
- Conduct a curriculum crosswalk to determine how existing courses align to Illinois pathway requirements and industry standards
- Collaborate with high school leadership to design and implement a Team-Based Challenge connected to career pathways and real-world problem solving
- Finalize proposed pathway expansions based on student interest, staffing capacity, course alignment, and workforce demand
- Develop an implementation and communication plan to promote newly approved pathways to students and families

**INDICATORS OF
SUCCESS**

Transition Course

- Completed, board-approved curriculum
- Maintain a record of meetings and work products

Pathway Offerings

- Additional pathway added; enrollment in new pathway-related courses
- Identify a timeline for the possibility of translating success criteria for pathway implementation through the use of *SchoolLinks*
- Development and implementation of a pathway survey for students to provide feedback on their experiences as they exit District 95

Stakeholder Outcome Metric: *80% of 6th-grade students successfully login and complete their grade-level career cluster interest inventories and PACE milestones via the SchoolLinks platform by the conclusion of the Transition course*

**POTENTIAL
RESOURCES**

Transition Course

- Illinois PACE Framework
- Student survey data
- Teacher release time

	<u>Pathway Offerings</u> ● Illinois State Board of Education guidance ● Student survey data ● Team Based Challenge Community Partner
POTENTIAL COSTS	The projected costs for implementation of this plan are as follows: substitute teachers for Transition curriculum work (2 teachers), AI Teacher Leader staff members at \$135 per day X approximately 7 days = \$1890. These costs are included within the budget.