

How *Career Choices* and My10yearPlan.com® Support the Career Ready Practices of the Common Career Technical Core

The *Career Choices* Curriculum

Career Choices & My10yearPlan.com® are the foundations of an interdisciplinary curriculum that engages students and teachers in an interactive learning process, helping them develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to successfully:

- examine their own lives
- explore and effectively evaluate a wide range of education and career options, and
- make reasoned and researched goals for their future.

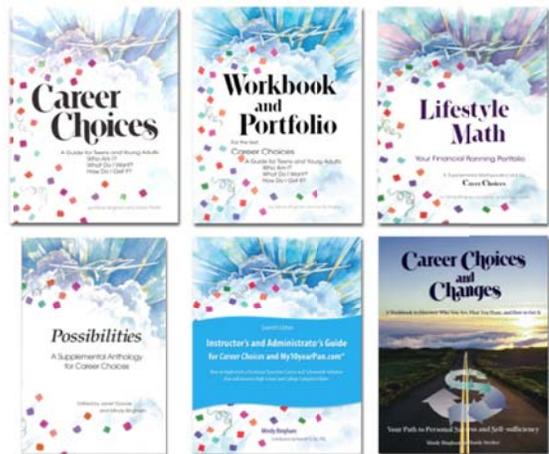
This course facilitates the in-depth exploration of three fundamental questions:

Who am I? What do I want? How do I get it?

These questions drive the academically-integrated curriculum, making it relevant, rigorous, and relationship-rich. The course culminates with students developing an individualized, online, 10-year plan that motivates them to envision a self-sufficient, productive life beyond high school, college or post-secondary training.

Career Choices and My10yearPlan.com® are designed around the following key concepts:

- Every adolescent needs **career guidance**
- **Establishing and consolidating identity** is an important task for ALL adolescents.
- The ability to **project into the future and understand the consequences of today's actions demonstrates the critical and strategic thinking that students must master** to thrive in the workplace of the 21st century



The Career Ready Practices of the Common Career Technical Core

The Common Career Technical Core, developed by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc), includes 12 overarching **Career Ready Practices** providing a framework of **experiences students should be given the opportunity to practice and refine throughout their education and training – from school to college to the workforce to ongoing or advanced learning.**

While the Career Ready Practices were established as goals for CTE programs, they are relevant for ALL students at both the secondary and post-secondary levels.

The *Career Choices* Curriculum and the Career Ready Practices

- 1 **Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.**
In addition to supporting reading, writing, and arithmetic, activities throughout *Career Choices* promote **goal setting, problem solving, self-management, accountability, and responsible citizenship.**
- 2 **Apply appropriate academic and technical skills**
An overarching goal of the *Career Choices* series has always been to motivate students to apply themselves by **helping them recognize the role academic and technical skills play in their lives outside of the classroom.** In addition to the optional *Career Choices* online enhancements, there are opportunities for students to utilize spreadsheets, presentation software, graphic design/publishing applications, word processing, and online research systems as they develop their life plan.
- 3 **Attend to personal health and financial well-being.**
A project-oriented *Career Choices* program offers students the opportunity to practice resource management as they learn what is necessary for a balanced life. For example, one of the many engaging *Career Choices* activities is an extensive budgeting project that allows students to identify, organize, plan, and allocate time, money, and human resources.
- 4 **Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason.**
Utilizing the pedagogy of a Socratic Circle (or Socratic Seminar), *Career Choices* emphasizes thoughtful discussion, dialogue, and a question/answer process that helps students gain a deeper understanding of concepts in the text.
- 5 **Consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions.**
Career Choices teaches students a proven process for researching, analyzing, and evaluating choices of all kinds. Students complete case studies before extending their learning by practicing the process with decisions related to their own future.
- 6 **Demonstrate creativity and innovation.**
Career Choices is student centered rather than subject centered. And, because the student (who they are, what they want, and how they can get it) **is** the subject, the process has personal relevance, which serves to unleash each student’s creativity. The products created throughout the process, including the culminating project of the 10-year plan, provide students with opportunities to practice 21st Century Skills and demonstrate mastery of key content.
- 7 **Employ valid and reliable research strategies.**
Career Choices teaches students a proven process for researching, analyzing, and evaluating choices of all kinds. As they master a life planning process, *Career Choices* students must gather, evaluate, and organize data to produce a personalized 10-year plan. This process requires a variety of information gathering strategies.
- 8 **Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
Activities throughout *Career Choices* ask students to exercise higher order thinking skills—analyzing problems, evaluating choices and associated consequences, creating new information. And students are given strategies for building resilience so that they can overcome challenges and persevere when they encounter roadblocks.
- 9 **Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.**
Career Choices utilizes cooperative learning techniques, allowing students to practice interpersonal skills by working in teams, leading, negotiating, and teaching others. These skills are important both in the workplace and in personal life.
- 10 **Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals.**
Students begin the *Career Choices* process with a comprehensive inventory that helps them explore and evaluate their interests, aptitudes, and skills. Then, following a scope and sequence that allows students to build on that solid foundation, the process culminates with one final project—the development of a 10-year plan, providing students with opportunities to practice 21st Century Skills and demonstrate mastery of key content.
- 11 **Use technology to enhance productivity.**
Understanding and using technology is critical to survival in the workplace. In addition to the optional *Career Choices* online enhancements, there are opportunities for students to utilize spreadsheets, presentation software, graphic design/publishing applications, word processing, and online research systems as they develop their life plan.
- 12 **Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.**
Career Choices utilizes cooperative learning techniques, allowing students to practice interpersonal skills by working in teams, leading, negotiating, and teaching others. These skills are important both in the workplace and in personal life.