

Clusters

in South Carolina

How students in ALL grades are being prepared for future employment.

Elementary school level

Students will...

- become aware of self.
- develop good work habits.
- learn how to make decisions.
- become aware of the world of work and that people do different kinds of work.

Middle school level

Students will...

- begin to understand themselves as individuals and learn about their own interests and skills.
- explore the world of work and how it is organized.
- begin preparing for a career.
- be introduced to *cluster system*.
- participate in service learning, job shadowing, and mentoring.

High school level

Students will...

- by the end of 9th grade, select a *cluster* and major to pursue.
- follow a specific plan of courses (the IGP) to prepare or work in that *cluster* and major.
- review and modify the IGP each year as needed with the advice of parents and school counselor.
- participate in job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships.

Postsecondary

Students will

- follow their chosen *cluster pathways* to a 2-year college, 4-year college, the military, other postsecondary education/training, or employment.
- obtain rewarding entry-level employment within his/her chosen *clusters*.
- continue to refine career choices throughout a lifetime of learning.

US Department of Education
South Carolina Department of Education

16 Career Clusters

- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- *Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications
- Business, Management, & Administration Education & Training
- Finance
- Construction
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales, & Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics Transportation,
- * Distribution, & Logistics
Called Arts & Humanities in some areas.

The cluster system categorizes the world of work into groups of similar occupations. South Carolina adopted the cluster system as outlined in a proposed new law, the South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act.

Why the cluster system?

The *cluster system* benefits students, parents, educators, and employers as it...

- directly links a student's school courses and interests to future career goals.
- helps in the creation of an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP).
- makes students and parents knowledgeable about the needs of the labor market.
- encourages teachers from different subject areas to work together.
- encourages employers to become involved in the education of students as future employees.

Preparing Today's
Children for

Tomorrow's
Careers...

Parents and Educators
as Partners

Brought to you by the
South Carolina Occupational Information System

1-800-264-9038 www.scois.net

Parents are a crucial part in the success of the cluster system in South Carolina and, more importantly, in your child's career process. Here are some ideas for guiding your child through his/her career preparation.

Home: where learning first takes place

- Give your child household responsibilities: plan meals, organize a family outing, chores, etc.
- Develop your child's work skills through decision-making, problem resolution, and team work in the home.
- Help your child set and achieve realistic but challenging goals. Set a time limit for achieving each goal, and discuss why the goal was or was not achieved.

Know your child: talk & listen

- Help your child build a positive self-image.
- Talk to your child about his/her dreams, goals, interests, and abilities.
- Discuss jobs with your child—jobs he/she finds interesting, good and bad points about jobs, and even your own education and job experiences.

Take advantage of teachable moments to get to know your child

A teachable moment is anytime you and your child are together:

- Riding in a car or on the bus
- Doing household or yard work
- Mealtimes
- Outdoor activities such as walking & fishing
- Watching TV

You are their role model!!

- Take your child to work.
- Talk positively about your job and work—no complaining or gossiping!
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn about the current job market, the many education/training options available, and the courses and career opportunities offered at your child's school.

Get involved in your child's education

- Join with your child and the school counselor to develop your child's IGP.
- Explore occupations with your child.
- Find valuable career and education information from such sources as SCOIS.
- Help your child experience as many work situations as possible, from direct employment to job shadowing, internships, and the like.
- Assist your child in developing a resume of work and volunteer experiences and activities.
- Encourage your child to learn technology.

For more information

SCOIS

Occupational & educational information for parents, students, and educators
www.scois.net

States' Career Cluster Initiative

An online guide to the clusters
www.careerclusters.org

S.C. Department of Education

For developments in S.C. education
www.ed.sc.gov

Personal Pathways to Success

Outlines the future of educational reform in S.C.
<http://recs.sc.gov>

O*NET (Occupational Information Network)

For information about occupations
<http://online.onetcenter.org>

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook

Information on specific occupations & job outlook
www.bls.gov/oco

Definitions of changes in South Carolina

EDUCATION

Career cluster

A way of organizing and tailoring course work and work experiences around specific occupational groups (such as business or health services) that offer students core academics as well as activities that match their skills and interests.

Career major

Similar to a college major, but applies to the secondary level of education (high school). An area of study within a larger occupational field or career cluster. It is possible to complete more than one career major.

Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP)

An IGP is not required to graduate but it is meant to encourage students to plan for their future. It includes a student's chosen career cluster, career major, planned or completed courses for the 9th through 12th grades, postsecondary objective, and planned and completed extracurricular activities and work-based learning experiences. An IGP is reviewed and updated by the student, his/her parents, and his/her counselor at least once per year.

Postsecondary options

The various ways a student can continue education after Grade 12 as he/she pursues an occupation. This includes, but is not limited to, a high school diploma, 2-year associate degree, 4-year bachelor's degree and advanced degrees, apprenticeship, the armed forces, and other options.