

POLICY FAMILY	EDUCATION PROGRAMS	500
---------------	--------------------	-----

Draft

Policy 590: **Proposed Middle School Pathway Exploration**

Adopted xx/xx/xx

Massachusetts state regulation 603 CMR 4.03(6)(i) requires that all public school districts with middle school grades have a Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy that documents how middle school students in the district are made aware of and gain exposure to career technical education schools and programs available to them in their district, regional, agricultural, and other public high schools. The district policy shall include processes for:

1. how the middle schools in a district will collaborate with career technical schools and programs in their district, regional, agricultural, and other public high schools to inform students about such opportunities to them;
2. how the district will provide all middle school students an opportunity to tour, during regular middle school hours, with the transportation costs to be assumed by the school hosting the tours; and
3. how the exploration and awareness of secondary school options including career technical education schools and programs is connected to a student's secondary and postsecondary academic and career planning

The Shrewsbury Public Schools will comply with this the requirements of 603 CMR 4.03(6)(i) as follows:

- I. Each fall by October 15, Oak Middle School will provide all 7th and 8th grade students' families with information regarding students' options for career technical education (CTE) in high school, including what CTE pathways programming is available at Shrewsbury High School, and at any vocational technical high schools that have official partnerships with the Shrewsbury Public Schools and/or where Shrewsbury resident students have typically attended. Information will be provided by electronic messaging to families and will be posted on the district website; per the regulation, the opportunity for career technical education schools and programs to provide information directly to Oak Middle School families will be provided. The Shrewsbury Public Schools will also

collaborate with those programs and schools and may, at the district's discretion, choose to allow a presentation to be made to students during the school day. CTE programs and schools, at the district's discretion, may also hold evening informational meetings for Oak Middle School families, and Oak Middle School will communicate with all Oak Middle School families about such opportunities (Note: the Town of Shrewsbury is not a member of a regional vocational technical high school district, so its resident students must apply to vocational technical high school programs as non-resident students.)

- II. Oak Middle School 8th grade students will be allowed to tour vocational technical high schools or other CTE programs during regular school hours, and attending such tours will not be counted as absences from school. Per state regulation, the cost of transportation for such tours will be assumed by the school or program hosting the tour.

III. Support for the Application Process

- Oak Middle School counselors and administrators will provide structured guidance to students and families throughout the application process for any CTE program.
- Oak Middle school administration and staff will work cooperatively with CTE schools during the application and admission process. All school records are sent via mail or electronic mail as requested and appropriate and in accordance with student privacy laws.
- Oak Middle School will communicate with families to provide information and reminders regarding application deadlines and requirements.

IV. Maintenance of Records

The district will maintain clear and consistent documentation of all student participation in career awareness and CTE-related activities. This will include:

- Student Participation in CTE Tours and Events
- Information distributed to families regarding CTE and high school options
- Student records shared with CTE schools as part of the admissions process
- Participation in activities aligned to career exploration and planning

V. Academic and Career Planning

Students at Oak Middle School will begin career exploration activities in Grade 7, utilizing best practices. In Grade 8, career exploration activities will connect with awareness of students' vocational technical and CTE options for high school.

This policy will be reviewed within five (5) years of adoption