

Somerville Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Policy Overview

The Somerville School District is committed to ensuring that all middle school aged students from the grade schools and their families are well-informed about the wide range of educational options available to them for high school, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) and vocational programs. In compliance with Massachusetts state regulations (603 CMR 4.00) and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this policy outlines how our district provides students with awareness and exposure to CTE and vocational opportunities at local, regional, and agricultural public high schools.

High School Pathway Options

The City of Somerville residents have Somerville High School available for their Career and Technical Education Programs. The following are the Chapter 74 Programs:

Chapter 74 Programs: Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Dental Assistant, Drafting and Engineering, Early Education and Care, Electrical, Graphic Design & Visual Communication, Health Careers, HVAC-R, Metal Fabrication & Welding, and Plumbing

Middle School Career Exploration

The district is in the first year of a two-year planning stage of a district-wide My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) that directly connects the exploration of CTE schools and programs to a student's broader academic and career goals. MyCAP is a structured process that helps students explore their interests, skills, and values starting in middle school. This self-discovery process guides students as they research high school pathways and make informed decisions about which school environment, whether a traditional high school or a specialized CTE program that best aligns with their emerging goals.

Collaboration with Member Schools

All grade schools in the district will actively collaborate with Somerville High School to inform students about the CTE/vocational opportunities available to them. This collaboration includes:

- **Information Sharing:** Annually grade schools will provide students with the information about the Somerville High School CTE programs and will schedule the following events with the SHS team.
- **On-Campus Assemblies:** Each winter, all eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to attend assemblies on-campus at the grade schools and hosted by the SHS team. These events will provide students with information about the CTE programs.
- **School Tours:** Each winter, all eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to tour their SHS CTE programs. These tours will be scheduled during the school day.
- **Promotion of Events:** We will share information about SHS middle school summer programs and informational events on the district website and through regular communication channels, such as principal newsletters.
- **College and Career Day:** Middle school aged students and their families are invited to attend career exploration and high school planning workshops.

- **Online Resources:** Each year the district website will publish pertinent information about SHS CTE options, including links to admissions policies, and open house/informational event schedules.

Maintenance of Records

Our district grade schools and SHS will maintain a record of all on-site presentations, assemblies, and student tours of the CTE programs, along with other relevant information about collaboration between the district and member CTE/vocational schools. These records will be made available to DESE upon request.