

DIFFERENT PATHS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Freshman Transition

Silverado High School (Victorville, CA)

Silverado High School is one of the largest schools in the country with nearly 3,700 students and a freshman class of over 1,400. As a part of the Smaller Learning Community reforms Silverado put in place, the Freshman Academy faculty implemented a freshman seminar class called Success 101, which led to increased GPAs and decreased suspension rates.

Grace King High School (Metairie, LA)

In 2006, this Louisiana high school had only 74 percent of its freshman students going on to 10th grade. After implementing a Freshman Transition course using *Career Choices*, the 9th grade promotion rate jumped to 96 percent.

Duval County Public Schools (Jacksonville, FL)

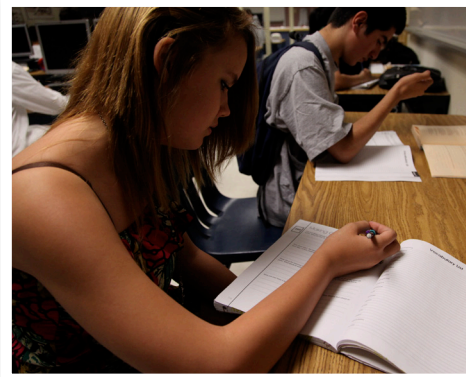
Duval County covers approximately 840 square miles in Jacksonville. In late 2005, the district received a Smaller Learning Community grant for its 19 high schools, at which point the planning team started the search for curriculum that would meet the Course Standards for Freshman Transition Classes while contributing to the district's goals—increasing course rigor and helping students earn a meaningful diploma.

McGavock High School (Nashville, TN)

The 2007-2008 school year was especially challenging for McGavock High School, with 11 different changes in administration personnel. Despite the challenges, in fall 2008, McGavock initiated a Smaller Learning Community effort that included a 9th Grade Academy and a course called Freshman Seminar.

Coachella Valley High School (Thermal, CA)

Coachella Valley High School once had the highest dropout rate in San Bernardino County, and school administrators were desperately seeking solutions. One step the school took was to adopt the *Career Choices* curriculum for a Career Prep course required for all 9th grade students. Within two short years, Coachella's dropout rate went from 15.7 percent to 3.8 percent.



Indio High School (Indio, CA)

Indio High has seen dramatic changes since the implementation of a freshman transition program and a focus on forming meaningful connections between staff and students. Results include: two thirds fewer freshman expulsions, half as many students with three or more Fs, and seven times more students joining the California Scholarship Federation.

Academic Integration

McCormick High School (McCormick, SC)

Daunting socio-economic factors couldn't stop this high school from improving. After one year of using *Career Choices* with students in ALL grades, this rural high school transformed from a below-average school to one of two excellent schools in South Carolina.

Lakeview High School (Columbus, NE)

The Business and English Curriculum Integration program (BECI) at Lakeview High School was designed to help prepare students for an increasingly complex world by integrating academic and technical skills. The program also included a career exploration component using the *Career Choices* curriculum to impart personal planning, decision-making, and career readiness skills.

Tumwater High School (Tumwater, WA)

When an interdisciplinary team of six instructors from Tumwater High School put together their plan to combat an alarming increase in student apathy, their hope was to create an Applied English and Technology class that would engage and motivate their freshman students. When the program was recognized by the Washington Educators Association with a "Leaders in Restructuring Award," that was just a bonus!

San Gabriel High School (San Gabriel, CA)

When the local board of education threatened to remove a speech/communications requirement, department chair Doug Campbell spearheaded an effort to add a career education component to the course. The result was a successful year-long interdisciplinary course for all 9th graders using the *Career Choices* curriculum.

For more information on these programs, please visit
<http://www.whatworkscareerchoices.com/bestpractices.html>



Career Readiness

Delaware State Tech Prep Consortium

Dr. Jim Campbell, 1993 winner of the national Parnell Award for exemplary Tech Prep programs, pioneered one of the first Tech Prep programs in the country. As successful as that effort was in engaging and motivating students, many still struggled when making an initial pathway selection, which caused problems with “lateral movement” between pathways. After implementing a transition program using *Career Choices* to guide freshmen through that selection process, fewer than 5% of students changed pathways.

Plantation High School (Broward County, FL)

As a part of the school’s Tech Prep/School-to-Career program, a Career Decision-Making and Critical Thinking Skills course allowed students to have a comprehensive career guidance experience in the classroom. To expose students to “real people who were doing real jobs and having careers they were interested in,” English teacher Mary Ellen Fowler arranged for more than 30 guest speakers from the community.

Lincoln High School (Vincennes, IN)

Phyllis Stewart, Tech Prep site coordinator and 30-year veteran FACS teacher, used her CTE course as an opportunity to integrate the *Career Choices* program with English and computer keyboarding. Working with instructors from other disciplines allowed for a team approach that improved learning and provided personalization.

Vonore High School (Vonore, TN)

Mention “career guidance” and “career readiness” and many educators will think of CTE courses and students who will leave high school headed for the workforce rather than post-secondary education. Priscilla Gregory, an English teacher at Vonore High School, had a different response. She advocated for the same prescription of guidance and career readiness for college-bound students.

Dual Enrollment

Carpinteria High School & Santa Barbara City College (Santa Barbara, CA)

A partnership between Santa Barbara City College, Carpinteria High School, the Irvine Foundation, and Academic Innovations is allowing every freshman student at Carpinteria High School the opportunity to earn college credit through a class using the *Career Choices* curriculum.

Special Populations

Little Falls Community High School (Little Falls, MN)

Licensed for both career/technical education and special education, Roberta Freed created a unique class that combines English with career-readiness skills. With the support of the school’s On-the-Job teacher, the result was a program that helped students successfully transition to the workforce or college.

Medina County Career Center (Medina County, OH)

When the Medina County School District inherited a failed employment/training program for at-risk youth, School-to-Career Coordinator Teri Redl was handed a new challenge: Get a successful program in place on all seven of the district’s high school campuses. Key to the program’s success was a structured curriculum that addressed the need for individual support and could be implemented in a classroom setting.



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