



## Alaska Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan

### What is a PLCP and why is it important?

**The Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan: Strategy 1.0: Make transitions planned and accountable for both successful student progress and systemic cooperation.**

**Strategy 1.1: Ensuring that every student has a personal learning and career plan (PLCP).**

#### What is a Personal Learning and Career Plan?

A Personal Learning and Career Plan (PLCP) should contain two critical elements:

1. First, a **PROCESS** of **career planning** for students beginning in elementary school and continuing through middle school, high school, and on through adulthood (e.g. preparation for promotion or career change).
2. Secondly, it is the **DOCUMENTATION** of the individual student's progress through an increasingly independent and informed decision-making process that looks at a wide variety of careers, examines personal interests, skills, and work values, identifies potential careers, sets educational and career goals based on that information, and identifies the steps necessary to attain those goals.

The **PROCESS** provides guidance through a variety of formats depending upon age and community resources, including career exploration courses; one-on-one guidance with a counselor or advisor; individual exploration and information gathering using resources such as labor market information, web-based career planning systems, Internet resources, books, job shadowing, informational interviewing; career and technical education classes; discussions with parents and other family members; participating in school sponsored and non-school related organizations and activities; school "advisory" periods; taking interest inventories, aptitude tests, and academic assessments; service learning; participating in a school-to-apprenticeship program; visiting postsecondary training institutions; developing résumés; and a host of other experiences and activities.



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The individual's **DOCUMENTATION** of his or her personal planning process may exist in many formats, from a simple hard copy folder to an electronic portfolio\*. It houses the information that has led the learner to an informed career choice direction, and also serves as the road map for getting there. It is continually updated and revised as learners engage in new experiences, gather new information, and learn more about themselves and career opportunities.

The Departments of Education & Early Development, Labor and Workforce Development and University of Alaska Statewide, in collaboration with Alaska CTE educators, have developed a list of recommended elements of a PLCP as well as an example of a simple hard copy PLCP. You may view and download these documents from the Alaska CTE website at <http://labor.state.ak.us/awib/cte.htm>.

Whatever the format an institution or school district develops, the PLCP process is a powerful way to provide learners with purposeful career guidance so they can make informed choices about their future.

### **Why should we help students develop their own personal learning and career plan (PLCP)?**

One-third of students don't graduate from high school in Alaska. Studies show the main reasons for students dropping out from school include feeling a lack of relevance in their education program, a feeling of isolation and not connecting with other students or adults in school, and boredom.

Many schools do not have career counselors or advisors. Students are not aware of their post-high school options. Students need the opportunity to make informed career and education choices. They need to know/see how their high school experiences, along with their own interests and abilities can guide them in planning their future career choices.



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If students can self-identify their interests, perceived abilities and desired lifestyles beginning in middle school and continuing through high school, they can connect with career pathways and help create education plans that give them the knowledge, skills and abilities to enter the workforce in a position they enjoy to generate wages that will support their lifestyle. Since their education plans will be driven by their own choices and preferences rather than what adults tell them they “should” do, it is easier for students to establish the relevance of their education plan to their future plans, and encourage them to improve their academic performance and stay in school.

To develop this informed perspective, students need to engage in a variety of career planning activities as they mature. Schools have a vital role in including career planning activities as an integral part of their curriculum. Personal Learning and Career Plans are living and renewing documents created through a process that helps students develop the career planning skills necessary for them to identify and refine their own career goals. PLCPs are powerful tools for providing students with purposeful career guidance so they can make informed choices.

**\*An example of an electronic portfolio:** Alaska has a powerful tool available at no charge to all residents that can form the basis for the electronic documentation of a PLCP: AKCIS, the Alaska Career Information System. AKCIS enables every Alaskan citizen to establish a free online electronic portfolio. The system includes interest inventories, work values questionnaires, Reality Check; course planner; activities to develop employability skills, including a résumé generator, that gives users the ability to store existing résumés and create new ones; career cluster information; details about thousands of careers; information on thousands of postsecondary options; videos and interviews with people in a variety of jobs; and includes Alaska-specific data on jobs and job openings in Alaska, wages, and education and training options. See <http://akcis.intocareers.org/> for details.