

Self-Determination Vertical Alignment: Career and Technical Education — Middle School

Developing Employability Skills: Job Exploration and Skill Development

The student investigates the professional skills needed for college and career success. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
3	
(A) apply core academic skills to meet personal, academic, and career goals	
(E) recognize the value of community service and volunteerism	
(F) demonstrate characteristics required for personal and professional success such as work ethics, integrity, dedication, perseverance, and interacting with diverse populations	

The student investigates job-seeking skills. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
5	
(A) identify the steps for an effective job search	
(B) describe appropriate appearance for an interview	
(C) participate in a mock interview	

Self-Determination K-12 TEKS Vertical Alignment
 This document captures existing TEKS that closely align with teaching self-determination and decision-making skills to students with disabilities in Texas as required by [TAC §89.1055\(h\)\(10\)\(A\)](#). Definitions from the research of Dr. Michael Wehmeyer and from The National Gateway to Self-Determination Project are the measures against which all TEKS were compared in order to determine their relevance. Only TEKS that met this standard were included, while all others were omitted.

Dr. Michael Wehmeyer defines self-determination as “acting as the primary causal agent in one’s life and making choices and decisions regarding one’s quality of life free from undue external influence or interference.”¹

The National Gateway to Self-Determination Project says that self-determined people make things happen in their own lives to improve the quality of their lives. They know what they want and how to get it, and they set goals and then work to reach them. They advocate on their own behalf and are involved in solving problems and making decisions about their lives.²

The student creates professional documents required for employment. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
6	
(A) develop a resume	
(B) write appropriate business correspondence such as a letter of intent and a thank you letter	
(C) complete sample job applications	
(D) explain protocol for selecting and using references	

The student explores career assessments as related to college and career planning. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
	1
	(D) determine academic requirements in related career fields

The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
	2
	(A) determine academic requirements for transitioning to high school
	(B) explore opportunities for earning college credit in high school such as advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, dual credit, and local and statewide articulated credit
	(C) develop an awareness of financial aid, scholarships, and other sources of income as well as college savings to support college and career advancement
	(D) discuss the impact of effective college and career planning
	(E) demonstrate decision-making skills related to school and community issues, programs of study, and college and career planning; and (F) identify how performance on assessments such as the PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT®, ACT®, ASVAB®, and Texas Success Initiative (TSI®) impact personal academic and career goals

The student evaluates skills for personal success. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
	3
	(A) use interpersonal skills to facilitate effective teamwork
	(B) use problem-solving models and critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions
	(C) use effective time-management and goal-setting strategies
	(D) identify skills that can be transferable among a variety of careers
	(E) create a personal career portfolio
	(F) make oral presentations that fulfill specific purposes using appropriate technology
	(G) identify entrepreneurial opportunities within a field of personal interest

The student recognizes the impact of college and career choices on personal lifestyle. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
	4
	(A) prepare a personal budget reflecting the student's desired lifestyle
	(B) use resources to compare and contrast salaries of at least three careers in the student's interest area

The student demonstrates an understanding of financial management. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers 127.2	College & Career Readiness 127.3
	5
	(A) compare the advantages and disadvantages of different types of money management services
	(B) simulate opening and maintaining different types of financial accounts
	(C) simulate different methods of withdrawals and deposits
	(D) reconcile financial statements, including fees and services
	(E) compare and contrast forms of credit, including credit cards and debit cards
	(F) discuss the importance of credit scores
	(G) discuss the impact of identity theft on credit
	(H) examine the effects of poor credit scores as they relate to personal finance and career opportunities

The student develops skills for professional success. The student is expected to:

Investigating Careers

127.2

College & Career Readiness

127.3

6

(A) demonstrate effective verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic communication skills

(B) evaluate the impact of positive and negative personal choices, including use of electronic communications such as social networking sites

(C) model characteristics of effective leadership, teamwork, and conflict management

(D) recognize the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including the ability to manage stress

(E) explore characteristics necessary for professional success such as work ethics, integrity, dedication, perseverance, and interactions with diverse populations