

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Career Development






September 2025

Career Development

In the 2024/25 school year, Priority 3 from the District's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning emphasized empowering every student to graduate from secondary school equipped with essential core competencies and a comprehensive transition plan that guides them confidently toward their life and career objectives. This priority recognizes that meaningful career development is essential to the broader mission of preparing students to thrive as lifelong learners and contributors in their communities.

Ministry of Education and Child Care – Career Education Context

The Ministry's Career Education curriculum (Grades 10–12) highlights the importance of students exploring personal strengths, interests, and values while gaining knowledge of diverse post-secondary, career, and life options. Students are expected to:

-  Develop a personal career-life plan that includes financial, social, and educational considerations
-  Engage in experiential learning opportunities that connect classroom knowledge to real-world application
-  Demonstrate core competencies such as communication, critical and creative thinking, and personal and social responsibility in the context of planning for life beyond graduation

By embedding these Ministry priorities within District programming, the District ensures that career development is not a separate add-on, but an integral part of every student's educational journey.

Dual Credit and Career Pathways

To strengthen local post-secondary access and support individualized career goals, the District continues to expand its Dual Credit initiatives in collaboration with the College of the Rockies. These programs allow students in grades 11 and 12 to earn both high school and post-secondary credits simultaneously. Opportunities include Academic Dual Credit, Youth Train in Trades, and the Early Childhood Education Dual Credit program.

Students may also enroll in first-year post-secondary courses while still in secondary school, provided that these courses align with their career goals and they have completed all relevant course offerings at their high school. Examples include drafting for engineers, psychology, and accounting. These opportunities give students a head start on their post-secondary journey while ensuring their studies remain relevant and purposeful.

These programs not only ease transitions into post-secondary studies but also foster confidence by exposing students to authentic expectations of college and the workforce. The Ministry's emphasis on experiential learning and personal career-life development aligns directly with these initiatives, ensuring that students develop the adaptability and decision-making skills necessary to navigate their future pathways.

Alternate Pathways to Graduation

In addition to traditional secondary programming, the District offers alternate pathways to graduation that reflect the Ministry's commitment to flexible and inclusive education. Options such as the Kootenay Discovery School, Kootenay Education Services, and other hybrid learning models provide students with the ability to complete their graduation requirements in ways that align with their personal circumstances, strengths, and career aspirations.

These alternate pathways ensure that all learners, including those who require more flexible schedules, specialized supports, or blended learning opportunities, can engage meaningfully in their education and successfully achieve graduation. This approach reflects the Strategic Plan's commitment to equity, inclusion, and student-centered learning.

Experiential and Community Based Initiatives

Experiential initiatives such as Project Heavy Duty strengthen career development by immersing students in real-world industry training. Students gain hands-on experience with heavy equipment operations while completing safety certifications and working alongside industry mentors. These opportunities reflect the Ministry's call for authentic, experiential learning and provide a direct bridge between school and employment.

In addition, the District recognizes that career development must also include safety and well-being supports. The Exploitation Prevention Coordinator plays a vital role in protecting vulnerable learners, building awareness, and coordinating responses with schools and community partners. This work ensures that students are not only prepared academically and technically for future careers but also supported in navigating risks that could disrupt their educational or employment pathways.

Summary

In 2024/25, Priority 3 from the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning ensured that all students in the District transition successfully from secondary school with the competencies, confidence, and planning needed to pursue their life and career goals. Through expanded Dual Credit opportunities with the College of the Rockies, including access to first-year post-secondary courses, alternate pathways to graduation, and hands-on programs such as Project Heavy Duty, students engaged in meaningful pathways that align with Ministry expectations for career education. The inclusion of the Exploitation Prevention Coordinator further supports this work, ensuring that vulnerable students have access to safety and wraparound supports.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the District's commitment to ensuring that every graduate leaves with a personalized transition plan, grounded in their strengths and aspirations, and equipped to successfully navigate post-secondary education, training, or employment.