



CAREER CONNECTIONS

THE ASVAB CEP COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER



IN THE NEWS

Dropout Rates and Career Exploration: What's the Connection?

One reason that students drop out of high school is that they fail to see the connection between what they are learning and future work opportunities. Students may also be unaware of what career options are available. What does this mean for you?

As high school counselors, you are faced with the ongoing challenge of preparing students for entrance into a career and/or college. You understand the importance of communicating to students how the career marketplace has changed. The workforce today is different from 50 years ago. No longer is a person likely to stay at one job, let alone in one career, for several years. Economic conditions require a new kind of workforce—a workforce of lifelong learners who can quickly gain the knowledge and skills needed to work with new technologies in emerging careers. A high school diploma is crucial for students to be able to compete in the 21st century workforce.

Schools across the nation are coping both with today's shaky economy and significant dropout rates. The dropout problem remains a significant one that affects a high school's ability to meet federal and state guidelines. More importantly, it directly impacts the students. "The decision to drop out is a dangerous one for the student. Dropouts are much more likely than their peers who graduate to be unemployed, live in poverty, receive public assistance, be in prison, and to be single parents with children who drop out from high school themselves."³

Career exploration programs can help high schools by keeping students motivated to stay in school.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the important link between what they are doing in school and what will be required of them in a career. Career awareness is one successful strategy used by high schools to engage and motivate students who are at risk for dropping out. "For thousands of high school students, including those who are on the verge of dropping out, CTE offers relevant learning experiences that answer the question "Why do I have to learn this?" while at the same time enhancing students' academic achievement and meeting industry needs."²

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts about Academic Success, Dropout Rates, and Career Technical Education

"High-risk students are eight to 10 times less likely to drop out in the 11th and 12th grades if they enroll in a career/technical program rather than a general program. A quality career/technical program can reduce a school's dropout rate by as much as six percent."¹

Career and Technical Education's Role in Dropout Prevention and Recovery

"Every day in the United States, 7,000 students drop out of school . . . Unless high schools are able to graduate their students at higher rates than the 68 to 70 percent they currently do, more than 12 million students will drop out during the course of the next decade."²

--Senator Mike Enzi (WY)

"Literally millions of young people are out of school and grossly ill equipped to compete in the 21st century workforce and economy."²

¹ "Facts about Academic Success, Dropout Rates, and Career Technical Education," by S. Bates.
http://www.citea.org/images/resources/Facts_about_academic_success_dropout_rates_and_CTE.pdf

² "Career and Technical Education's Role in Dropout Prevention and Recovery," by the Association for Career and Technical Education, February 2008.
<http://www.closingtheachievementgap.org/cs/ctag/view/resources/86>

³ "The Silent Epidemic. Perspectives of High School Dropouts," by J. Bridgeland, J. Dilulio & K. Morison, March 2006.
<http://www.silentepidemic.org/epidemic/statistics-facts.htm>

Why the ASVAB Career Exploration Program is Right for Your School.

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) is a free, comprehensive program that provides all of the tools for students to learn about themselves and the world of work. Students explore occupations in line with their interests and skills, and at the same time, develop an effective strategy to realize their career goals. The ASVAB Program:

- Presents a full spectrum of careers for exploration, regardless of a student's gender, ethnicity, or ability levels.
- Helps students identify the skills that are important for a career and plan their coursework accordingly.
- Enables students to discover untapped talents (e.g., mechanical ability) by taking the ASVAB test.

The ASVAB Program can help schools respond to the dropout crisis by giving them a program that provides the critical link between students' high school experiences and their future careers.

What's New in the ASVAB Program

- **Career Clusters**
 - We've linked all occupations in the OCCU-Find to the 16 national clusters identified by the States' Career Clusters Initiative. This linkage gives students an additional tool for career exploration and may help them choose courses that align with their career goals.
- **ASVAB Sample Test Questions**
 - We've included 40 sample test questions to give students a better idea of the questions they'll see on the ASVAB test: <http://www.asvabprogram.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=overview.test>.
- **ASVAB Promotional Video**
 - We've posted an overview of the ASVAB Program: http://www.asvabprogram.com/home/clip/ASVAB_Promo.html. Share the video with students interested in the Program!

Coming Soon ... An enhanced **My ASVAB** area with interactive activities, the ability to save favorite occupations, and more!

Link to the ASVAB Program

Consider putting a link to the ASVAB Program website www.asvabprogram.com on your Career Center website.

Help students make informed career decisions.

For more information, visit www.asvabprogram.com or call 1-800-323-0513.

WHAT HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS SAY

"The ASVAB leads to heightened career awareness for the students. It becomes a springboard for thinking about careers."

--Neta Coulter, Clayton High School (Clayton, New Mexico)

"The ASVAB results are useful even a year later. The students take the ASVAB test in their junior year, but some may not spend a lot of time thinking about their results. In their senior year, they get more serious about their occupational choices. So the guidance counselors can pull out the scores from the junior year and remind the students of the results."

--Scott Palser, Dumas High School (Dumas, Texas)

"Some students may focus on the occupations, but do not always study the training required. So a student could say that he/she would like to be a cosmetologist or a pediatrician. In such situations, I can use the OCCU-Find to help them understand the training required for each occupation so they can begin to make choices and decisions based on more in-depth thinking about the occupation."

--Michael Emmer, Benson High School Magnet (Omaha, Nebraska)