



## What It Is

- Pathways provide preparation, aligned with the Foundation High School program, for college and careers that is applicable to all students' educational and career interests and plans.
- Students in pathways apply classroom learning in real-world settings while enrolled in advanced academic programs, including early college, dual credit, AP, and IB.

## Why It Matters

- In order to expand college and career options for students, pathways prepare students for a range of postsecondary education options—including certifications, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees—while simultaneously providing students with opportunities to learn about careers and build skills relevant to their career goals.
- Research shows that students who complete advanced academic programs are more likely to enroll and be successful in college.

## What It Looks Like

- The design of pathways incorporates crosswalks that provide a road map for how students will progress through courses and pathways that lead to a range of postsecondary options, including certifications, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees.
- Pathways programs of study and graduation plans at the high school level include multiple advanced academic course options that are accessible to all students.
- Pathways are supported by structures and processes—such as integrated projects and curriculum units, project-based learning, team teaching, common planning time for teachers, and lessons that embed CTE content in academic courses—that enable educators to integrate core academics and career-focused learning.
- Students are exposed to and build familiarity with industry standards and practices through both classroom learning and participation in activities and opportunities outside the classroom, including out-of-school time programs.
- Teachers and counselors increase their knowledge of industry standards and practices through participation in externship programs.

## Stakeholder Roles

- **Secondary educators** develop curricula and structures to support integration.
- **Postsecondary educators** partner on the design and delivery of advanced academic programs such as dual credit and early college.
- **Employers** advise on industry standards and practices and work with educators to provide externship opportunities for teachers and counselors.
- **Intermediaries** facilitate collaboration among educators and employers.

