

What is Connecting Activities?

Connecting Activities (CA) is a *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education* (DESE) *initiative* that leverages a statewide infrastructure to support **college and career readiness for all students**.

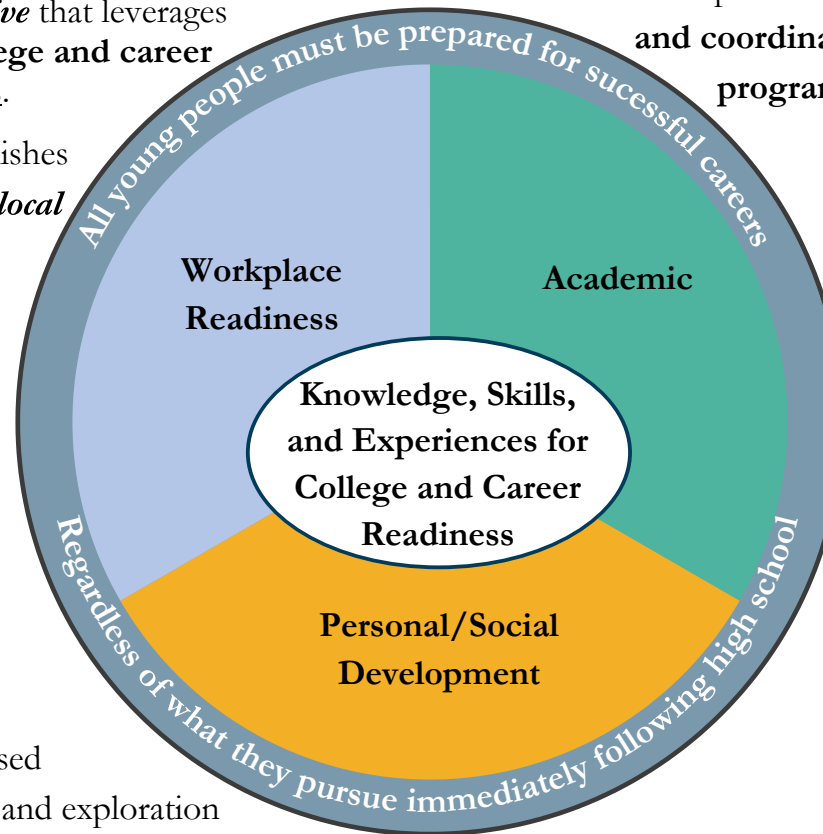
The CA line item in the state budget, establishes public-private partnerships through the **16 local MassHire Workforce Boards** to connect schools and businesses.



The initiative provides structured Work-Based Learning experiences and career awareness and exploration opportunities for **all students** that support both their academic and employability skill attainment.

The MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board (MHBWB) has positioned itself as the *regional lead* in **developing and coordinating ALL Career Readiness activities and programs** for Berkshire County in-school and out-of-school youth.

The MHBWB has established Connecting Activities as the ‘**overarching initiative**’ that encompasses **all regional career awareness, exploration and immersion activities** and has continued to work to strengthen partnerships and collaborations among school-based-staff, school district administration, regional employers and community-based professionals in expanding the ***College & Career Readiness*** system throughout Berkshire County.



College and career readiness means **EVERY student** has the requisite *knowledge, skills and experiences* in the **academic, workplace readiness, and personal/social domains** to successfully navigate to completion an economically viable career pathway participating in responsible citizenship.

Career Awareness

Becoming 'aware' of potential careers

Can begin in Kindergarten - Grade 6

- Career Interest Assessments
- Career Speakers
- Career Days / Career Fairs
- College & Career Planning begins!
- Company Tours / Field Trips
- Labor Market Research
- Community Service Learning

Career Exploration

'Exploring' career interest areas & career readiness

Can begin in Grades 7-8

- Career Exploration Classes
- Career Skills Workshops
- Job Shadowing
- Mock Interviews
- Informational Interviews
- Mentorship Programs

Career Immersion

Learning the specific skills & knowledge within a career pathway area

Begins in High School

- Work-Based-Learning (Jobs/Internships)
- Career Pathways & CVTE Courses
- Capstone / Senior Project
- Entrepreneurial Programs
- Skills Portfolios & Resumes
- Career Specific Courses with Field Experience



Career Skill Workshops



High School internships

MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board
Creating a Career Readiness Integrated System for ALL youth!

*Funding has been generously provided by the Berkshire Taconic
Community Foundation to support the school districts
in South County.*

For more information, please contact

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Summer Work Experiences



Career Fairs