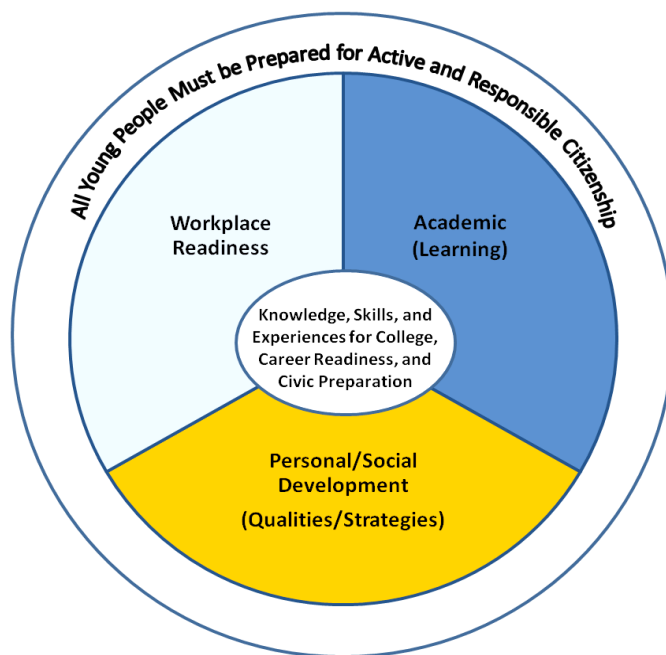


## **Educator Resource - Career Awareness & Exploration Virtual Resources FY21**

**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 workforce investment boards to connect schools and businesses by providing structured work-based learning experiences for students that support both their academic and employability skill attainment.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/connect/cde/> ; [www.massconnecting.org](http://www.massconnecting.org)

**MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE!** The nation and state is experiencing critical levels of youth unemployment; 50% of the nation's college graduates are un/underemployed. The 'skills gap' continues to expand due to our youth not being equipped with the necessary skill sets and knowledge for success in today's industry sectors – employers are in need of skilled workers!



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### **Career Development Education or CDE (From the CDE Guide 2.0) - [LINK](#)**

- Whether it is in the context of a CVTE program, an Innovation Pathway or Early College program, or a traditional academic high school program, CDE provides a thoughtful sequence of experiences, designed so that all students have equitable access to exploring future career options and feel confident as they prepare for next steps after high school.
- In an exemplary CDE model, students participate in a well-designed sequence of CDE activities that become progressively deeper and more intensive as the students gain skills and maturity. This sequence of CDE activities help students move from the cognitive to the experiential:

**Awareness:** Students see visual images and messages reinforcing the variety of careers available to them from a young age, participate in events, self-assessments, and other activities to become aware of career opportunities and personal interests, learn about the first steps that might lead to a desired career path.

*Examples:* Career Interest Assessments; Career Speakers; Career Days / Career Fairs; College & Career Plans (CCP) / Individual Learning Plans (ILP) Company Tours / Field Trips; Labor Market Information

**Example options for Remote/Virtual Learning:**

- Career Speakers can join classes via video conferencing (Zoom, etc)
- Career Interest Assessments: <https://portal.masscis.intocareers.org/>
- Labor Market Research: <https://www.onetonline.org/>

**Exploration:** Students learn more about various careers, including career pathways and postsecondary education and training. Through career pathways programs, classes, and workshops, students begin to gather information while also developing career skills.

*Examples:* Career Exploration Classes; Career Focused Elective Courses; Job Shadowing; Community Service Learning; Individual Career Guidance; Informational Interviews Workshops / Presentations (work readiness, financial literacy, etc.)

**Example options for Remote/Virtual Learning:**

- [www.careervillage.org](http://www.careervillage.org)  
An online community where students can get free personalized career advice from real-life professionals, with a focus on underrepresented youth. Check out the local Massachusetts feed for questions and answers from local students and professionals!
- <https://connectednational.org/watch/day-at-work-videos/>  
**A Day At Work (Videos).** A collection of videos from ConnectEd to help youth better understand the rapidly changing world of work, and the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century.
- <http://www.jobsmadereal.com/>  
**Jobs Made Real:** By Teens For Teens. A searchable library (by personality, salary, job outlook and education goals) of videos for various careers with links to O-net and US Department of Labor Information as well as career center information.
- <https://portal.masscis.intocareers.org/>  
**MA Career Planning:** can also be used for career exploration and employability skills self assessments.

**Immersion:** Students gain hands on experience in career areas of interest. Career Immersion includes work-based learning experiences, capstone projects, mentorships, and other opportunities to try out a career area and start to build career skills.

*Examples:* Work-Based-Learning Capstone / Senior Project; Entrepreneurial Programs; Mentor Programs; Skills Portfolios; Career Specific Courses with Field Experience

**For Examples of Remote/Virtual Career Immersion Including Internships, view:**

[Remote/Virtual Work Based Learning Tips/Resources](#)

[Innovation Pathways Virtual Resources](#)

***Throughout each of these stages, CDE also addresses student attitudes and beliefs about their future selves, ensuring a personalized approach to their learning process.***

Tips for the instructor, mentor, teacher, industry partner

- Before planning an event or activity, brainstorm and have a clear vision of the impact that the event or activity can have in a student's career development and in their career trajectory.
- Brainstorm ways that a partnership with an industry professional can enhance or hinder a student's experience.
- Consider partnership development, cultivation, and sustenance.
- Encourage partnerships with industries that are justified by labor market information, highlighting industries such as manufacturing, environmental and life sciences and other industries highlighted in regional economic blueprints and labor market information.
- Consider experiences that will enhance self-concept and increase confidence in career decision making and decision making in general.
- Increase school and district-wide cultural proficiency within all of your offerings.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/equitableaccess/resources/culturalproficiency.pdf>

**Additional Resources:**

[Career Development Education \(CDE\) Guide 2.0](#)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/edx-courses-by-harvard-mit/id945480667>

Free EdX courses by Harvard and MIT. There is a cost if the student wants a certificate:

There are some career/job skills courses/programs within the EdX website.