

# What are the possibilities? – Youth Career Connections

Program Year 2023 / Fiscal Year 2024



## YOUTH CAREER CONNECTIONS

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Building Youth Career Pathways

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# Mission

The success of the Prince George's County economy will be largely based on the County's labor force and its ability to meet the needs of businesses operating in extremely competitive global markets.

Youth Career Connections is Prince George's County's most comprehensive in-school youth program, with a mission to engage and prepare the County's future workforce by integrating the delivery of secondary and post-secondary with workforce development services.

Working with students from 6<sup>th</sup> through undergraduate studies, Youth Career Connections goal is to ensure Prince George's County's emerging labor force have the skills and qualifications local employers need, while connecting the County's future workers to subsidized and unsubsidized employment opportunities with local employers.





# Funding Streams

1. Blueprint for Maryland's Future
2. Prince George's County Local Development Council Video Lottery Terminal (VLT)
3. WIOA Title I In-School Youth (ISY)
4. Prince George's County FY23 ARPA



# Staffing

-  - Primarily Blueprint Funded
-  - Not Primarily Blueprint Funded

64 FTEs



**Jennifer Ricks**

Director, Youth Services Department (1)



**Diane Roberts**

Assistant Director,  
Youth Services (1)



**Shannon Williamson**

Manager,  
Youth Career Connections (1)



**6 of 6 Filled**

Coordinator, Youth Career Connections (6)



**Vacant / Not Filling**

Coordinator, College to Careers (1)



**Asumini Kasule**

Manager,  
Youth Career Connections (1)



**Emily Clark**

Associate,  
Youth Career Connections (1)



**Jocelyn Manning**

Career Consultant, Youth Career Connections (1)



**Tabu Henry**

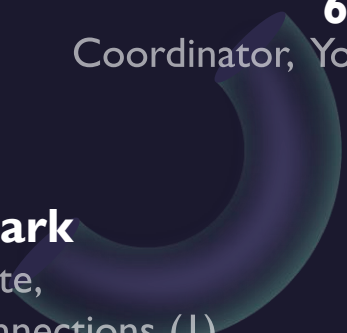
Associate,  
Youth Career Connections (1)

**Actively Filling**

Career Consultant, Youth Career Connections (25)

**Actively Filling**

Career Consultant, Youth Career Connections (25)





# Introduction

Beginning with youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Youth Career Connections provides career assessment, career exploration, and career exposure services that allow students to draw a direct correlation between their classroom studies and career opportunities in the DC Metropolitan Region.

As Prince George's County youth become young adults, and matriculate into high school and post-secondary education, Youth Career Connections provides work-based learning and connections to employment opportunities that allow them increase their basic skills and become career ready, while providing on-the-job training along a career pathway, in high demand occupations, within in-demand industries.

# Leveraging Funds


**Prince George's County Public  
Schools: Blueprint for Maryland's  
Future**

# Employ Prince George's Blueprint for Maryland Pillars



## I PILLAR CAREER COUNSELING

The Blueprint allocated funding to PGCPS for the [Prince George's County Workforce Development Board](#) (administrative functions and programming operations conducted by [Employ Prince George's](#)) to establish a robust career counseling program (under the Board's [Youth Career Connections](#) in-school youth program) for students in all PGCPS middle and high schools (6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade).



## II PILLAR INDUSTRY FOCUS

The goal of this robust career counseling program is that the counseling is aligned with the in-demand industries and in-demand industry clusters identified by the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board

Students should be counseled and educated on what the in-demand industries/industry clusters are, the career pathways within each industry cluster, including the occupational classifications, occupational titles, and the minimum qualifications for each classification and occupation.

## III PILLAR SKILLS BUILDING

Along with aligning the Youth Career Connections' career counseling programming with the career pathways of Prince George's County's in-demand industry clusters, identified by the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, the career counseling will identify the educational training options (secondary and post-secondary) within each career pathway.

## IV PILLAR CREDENTIALING /APPRENTICESHIPS

The long term goal of this Youth Career Connections career counseling program, led by the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, is that PGCPS will see increases in CTE enrollments, CTE program completers, and CTE credential attainment rates, along with increases in PGCPS registered apprenticeship programming and participation.

# Primary Education Workforce Development Services

•EXPOSURE



6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Aptitude and interest assessments
- Group Career Coaching
- Interactive Career Fairs
- Entrepreneurship Challenges
- Virtual Reality Career Tours
- SMART Goals
- Soft Skills





# Lower Secondary Education Workforce Development Services

## EXPLORATION

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Group Career Coaching
- Aptitude and skills Assessment
- Virtual Job Shadowing
- Career Exploration Webinars
- Job Simulation Games: Identification of Career Pathways
- Career Exploration Fair/Projects
- Career Technical Education Pathways (CTE)
- SMART GOALS



# Upper Secondary Education Services

## DISCOVERY

9<sup>th</sup> Grade

• 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Group Career Coaching
- Learning Style Assessment
- Career Technical Education Pathways (CTE)
- Mentoring
- Career Panels
- Virtual Job Shadowing
- Job Simulations & Role Playing
- Career Exploration Fair/Projects
- Industry Specific Field Trips
- Resume Preparation

- Group Career Coaching
- Personality Assessment
- **Career Pathway Selected**
- Virtual College & Career Tours
- College & Career Readiness
- Mentoring
- Career Panels & Networking Events
- STEM Hackathons

# Upper Secondary Education Services

## DISCOVERY

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Undecided

- 1-on-1 Career Coaching
- Mentoring
- College & Career Tours
- Career Exploration Fair/Projects
- Industry Specific Field Trips & Workshops
- SMART Goals

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Group Career Coaching
- Mentoring
- Financial Literacy & Scholarships
- College & Career Tours
- Behind the Scenes Business Tours
- Resume 101
- Internships & Job Shadowing
- College & Career Readiness
- SMART Goals

# Upper Secondary Education Services

## DISCOVERY

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Undecided

- I-on-I Career Coaching
- Mentoring
- Career Exploration

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- I-on-I Career Coaching
- Mentoring
- Industry Specific Hiring Events
- Resume 102
- Internships
- Workforce Draft (Similar to NFL Draft)

# Connectivity

Youth Career Connections, through its braided funding model and integration into the delivery of primary, secondary, and post-secondary education, is one of the most expansive and holistic in-school youth workforce development programs in the United States.

Youth Career Connections serves Prince George's County residents, both youth and young adults, from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through their final years of undergraduate studies at the post-secondary level.

Being able to integrate into multiple levels of educational systems, Youth Career Connections is bridging the gap between businesses and the public education system, bringing businesses into classrooms, aligning educational studies to career pathways, ensuring students are being prepared to have the skills and qualifications employers need, **while connecting businesses and students to develop a robust talent pipeline for Prince George's County.**



# Thank You

Employ Prince George's

Youth Services Department

Workforce Services Division

<https://www.employpg.org/ycc/>

