

Individual Plans of Study



July 2016

Kansas Leads the World in the Success of Each Student

Why are Individual Plans of Study Important?

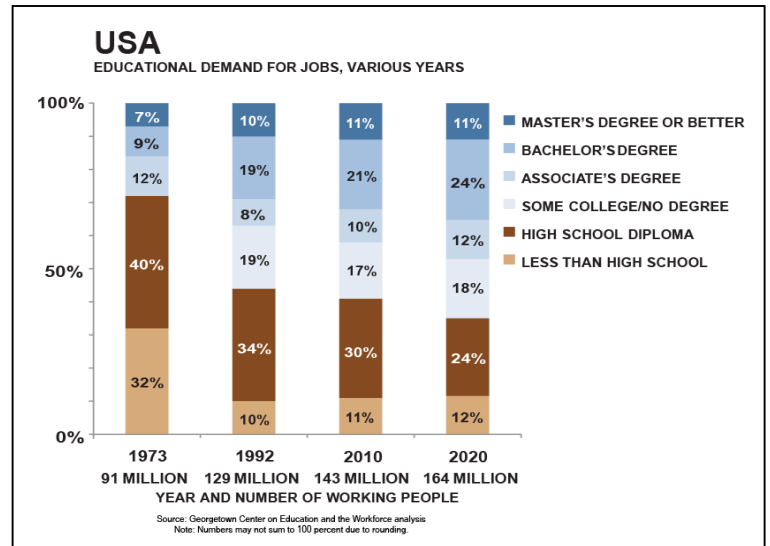
With a workforce increasingly requiring higher educational levels for jobs (see graph on right) coupled with a relatively low percentage of students completing a post-secondary credential (certificate through advanced degree), the learning and labor landscape has come to a crossroads. To assist more students to complete a post-secondary credential and be competitive in the labor market, it's crucial to begin career exploration and planning earlier in students' educational experience. The Kansas State Board of Education has set an individual plan of study for every student beginning in the middle grades as one of their State Student Success Outcomes to help students plan more extensively for success after high school.

What is an Individual Plan of Study?

An Individual Plan of Study (IPS) is both the actual *product* a student develops and a *process* the school implements to guide students in developing their unique IPS.

Through multiple discussions with school counselors and administrators, KSDE has set the following as **minimum components of a student's Individual Plan of Study**:

1. **A graduated series of strength finders & career interest inventories to help students identify preference toward career clusters**
2. **8th – 12th Course builder function with course selections based on career interests**
3. **A general post-secondary plan (workforce, military, certification program, 2-yr. college, 4-yr. college)**
4. **Portable electronic portfolio**



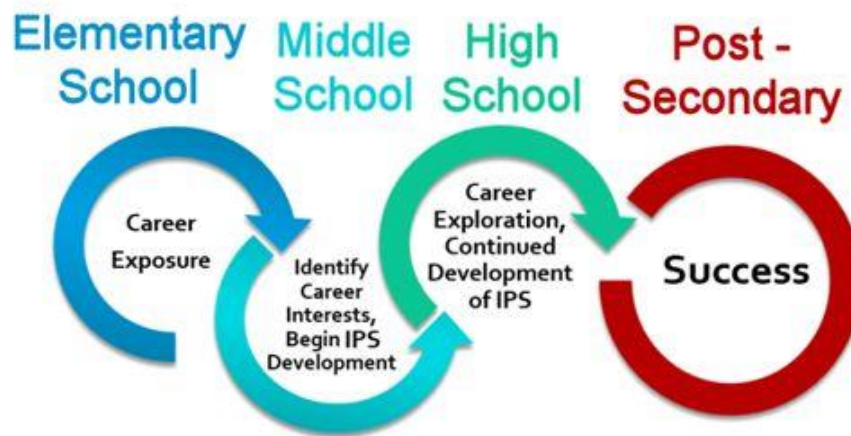
**POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION COMPLETION
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
EVER BEFORE**

How do schools guide students to develop Individual Plans of Study?

Regarding the process for an IPS, KSDE has categorized IPS processes into four different models currently being utilized or implemented by schools across the state:

1. **Counselor Centered (IPS curriculum implemented by counselor)**
2. **Career Advisor System (all school staff implement IPS curriculum)**
3. **Career Advocates (individuals hired to implement IPS curriculum)**
4. **Hybrid (any combination of models 1 – 3)**

K-12 Career Guidance Curriculum



Parting Thoughts

Schools are not required to use a vendor for IPS. As long as the four minimum components of an IPS are present, schools can create their own IPS system.

By the 2017-2018 school year, every middle school and high school in Kansas will have an IPS product and process in place.

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