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ABSTRACT

The teacher directed document presents definitions of what career education is and what it intends to accomplish with students in the public schools. Definitions for career education touch on flexible school programs, career awareness, career exploration, and career orientation. Career education and student needs are discussed in terms of four educational levels: kindergarten through third grade, fourth through sixth grade, junior high/middle school, and high school. Suggestions for implementing career education are provided for each of the four age groups. (LH)

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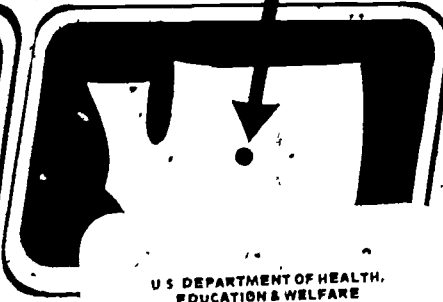
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WHAT IS IT

WHO IS IT FOR

WHY IS IT
IMPORTANT

CAREER EDUCATION PROJECT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
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Washington State Coordinating Council for Occupational Education
Research and Development Project
in Career Education

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet originated because of an existing need for a better and more thorough understanding of what career education is, and what it intends to accomplish with young people in the public schools in the state of Washington. It is hoped that it will serve the purpose of reducing confusion regarding career education programs, and at the same time act as an aid to teachers who are planning to include programs of career education into their present teaching.

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WHAT IS CAREER EDUCATION?

CAREER EDUCATION is a concept which conveys the belief education should be preparatory for all persons; preparatory for those who will enter the world of work as well as those who will enter college.

CAREER EDUCATION is the latest thing in education but it is not necessarily new nor is it a fad or a revolutionary approach to education.

CAREER EDUCATION calls for the combining of "formal educational experiences" . . . the classroom . . . with the reality of the world of work. It's not for any one particular group, and it's not an attempt to replace the existing educational program with a whole new one.

CAREER EDUCATION calls for orienting students toward careers so they can make knowledgeable and intelligent career choices. This is accomplished by making students aware of various occupational groups or clusters of occu-

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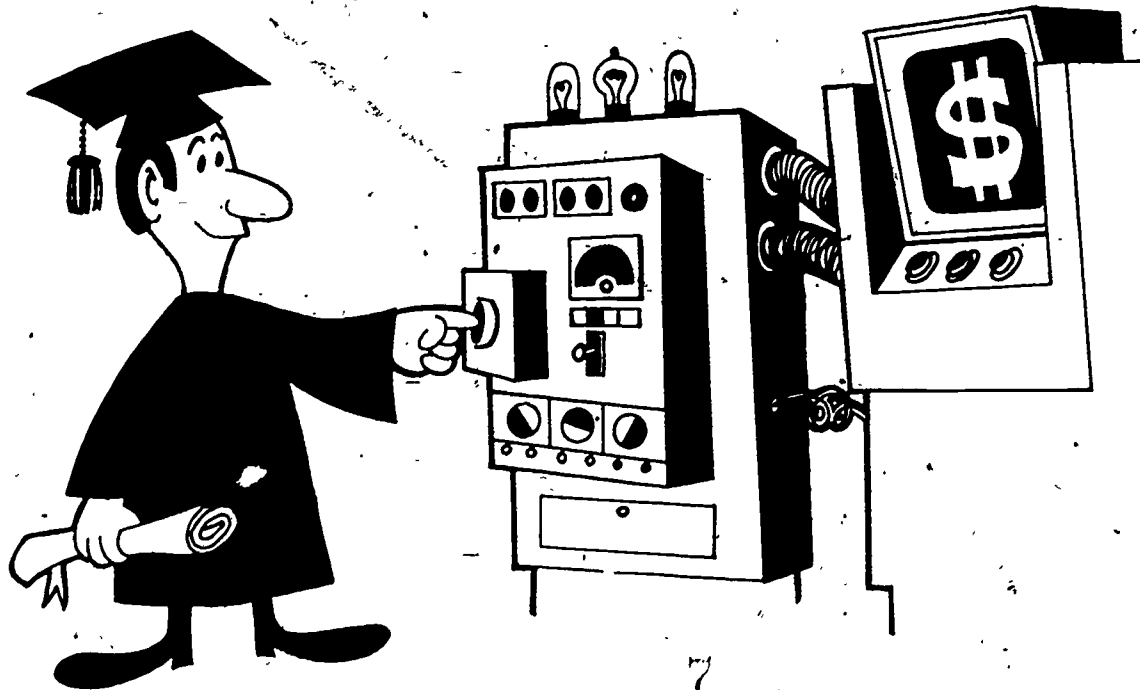
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CAREER EDUCATION is a flexible concept, an evolving idea, a means of reforming the existing system so that it effectively responds to the needs and demands of today's modern, complex, and ever-changing world.

CAREER EDUCATION is an attempt to show students that people work for a variety of reasons: economic stability; the economic means for developing talents, interest, and use of leisure time; to contribute economically to the society in which we live; to gain satisfaction from a job well done, and to gain pride and prestige in work.



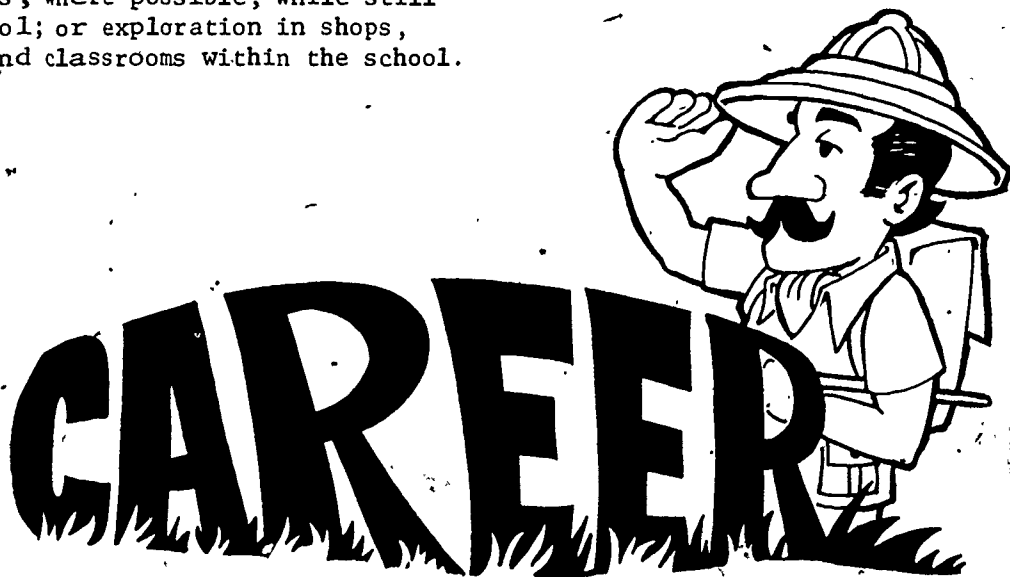
CAREER EDUCATION involves all students in all grades. It includes a complete program of career awareness, career exploration, and career orientation.

CAREER AWARENESS includes the development of awareness in: the many careers available, the individual in relation to where he or she may fit into the world of work, developing a good attitude toward work and society, respect for workers in all areas of employment, and in making a tentative choice in a career cluster.



CAREER EXPLORATION in the way of: classroom speakers representative of a variety of occupations, field trips oriented toward careers, providing students opportunities for hands-on work experience by making materials available about many TYPES of occupations.

CAREER ORIENTATION by providing on-the-job experiences, where possible, while still attending school; or exploration in shops, laboratories and classrooms within the school.





PRIMARY GRADES

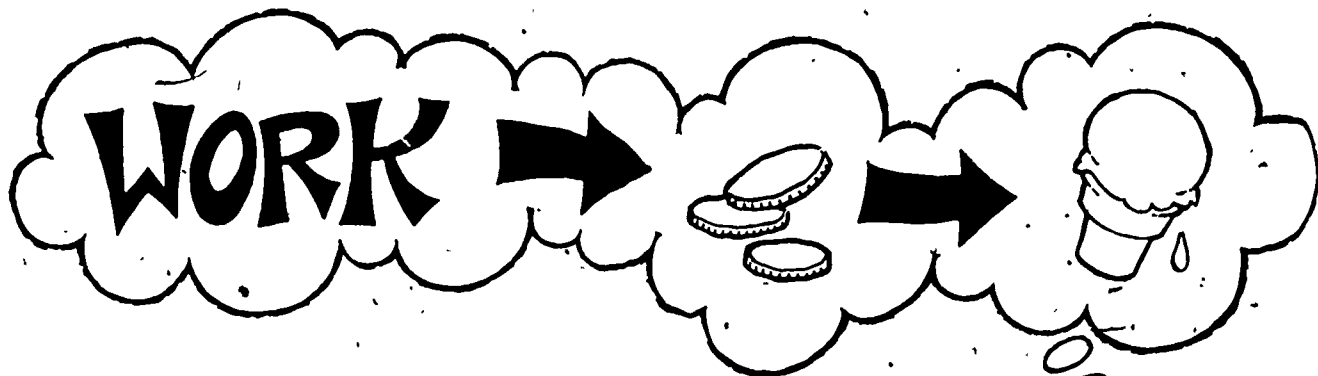
PURPOSE:

The purpose of career education at the primary level . . . K-3 . . . is to make children aware of themselves in relation to life around them. Attitudes toward self and the world of work are a part of career education. Children are not expected to choose a career but rather to become aware of workers, and can learn to appreciate what workers do for themselves as well as others:



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CAREER EDUCATION IN THE PRIMARY GRADES

1. Discover the many tasks done by the class and the relationship of these tasks to the school and the individual.
2. Become aware of the jobs done in the home and community, of different employment places, of special skills in relation to the child.
3. Become aware of choices in situations related to self, family and school.
4. Become aware that the completion of a task may benefit others.
5. Become aware of tools, ability, physical capabilities, spatial relationships, self achievement and other unique qualifications for even simple jobs.
6. Become aware that steps are involved in completing tasks; safety, tool use, relationships with others, physical coordination plus development of skill in listing, interacting and manipulating.
7. Become aware that social and economic needs and wants differ among students, that economic rewards satisfy some wants and that relationships exist between earning, buying, selling, saving and borrowing.
8. Become aware of the importance of listening and following oral instruction.
9. Become aware that some tasks are better performed alone and others in groups, as well as awareness of social skills appropriate to different situations.
10. Awareness of being in school to learn; that others know things because they have learned and that learning how to read, write and count is necessary to living and making a living.



INTERMEDIATE GRADES

PURPOSE

The purpose of career education in the intermediate grades . . . 4-6 . . . is awareness of specialization, of social and economic factors which generate careers, of career clusters . . . job families . . . competencies, standards of performance and the relationships of these factors to individual and societal needs.



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CAREER EDUCATION IN THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES

1. Become aware of self interest and aptitudes, and of sensitivity to others. Investigate long and short range goals and social roles in relation to individual wants and job requirements.
2. Become aware that others rely upon him/her to complete an assigned responsibility and accepting persons who differ but may show outstanding qualities of a particular skill.
3. To become aware that decision making has personal satisfaction and that personal characteristics contribute to and influence career decisions.
4. Become aware that economic activities contribute to personal and public stability and awareness of the difference between necessities and luxuries.
5. Become aware of resource needs and limiting factors related to setting objectives; critical thinking, physical skills, use of scientific methods and organizational skills.
6. Become aware of skills necessary for a variety of jobs; work habits, personal appearance and social attributes.
7. Become aware of the functions of data, capital, people, and machines in the function of various careers.
8. Become aware that learning is important to earning and that school experiences become preparation for careers.
9. Become aware that personal interests affect personal future.

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JR. HIGH - MIDDLE SCHOOL

PURPOSE

The purpose of career education in the middle school or junior high is to look into careers in depth. In particular to investigate the relationships between occupations and education, specialized careers on the basis of social values, geographic location, requirements, preparation and pay, and job classifications as related to each other and to society as a whole.



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CAREER EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR HIGH - MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. To explore career clusters in relation to student interest in courses and work.
2. To look in depth into tentative career choice based upon awareness of individual values and understanding of priorities and to realize that goals must change in later life.
3. To investigate the importance of a job to the individual and to society, that people are dependent upon each other for a job well done and that all careers carry responsibility.
4. To explore career clusters in relation to personal interests and to establish some priorities in making decisions about a career.
5. To investigate life styles of persons in different careers and how these life styles are effected by career.
6. To explore the principles and concepts of economic security to the individual, the community, the state and the nation.
7. To identify some specific tasks related to careers and to recognize the relationship existing between educational achievement and occupational level of responsibility.
8. To explore some of the environmental conditions existing in a particular career cluster.
9. To look at responsibilities in the career area: Directing and directed roles, job opening requirements, group activities and social and communicative skills related to employment.
10. To explore learning as it applies to use of time throughout life, and investigation of educational preparation for careers in different forms . . . on-the-job, short courses, private schools, military, individual study, community college, vocational-technical institutes, college or university etc.

HIGH SCHOOL

PURPOSE

The purpose of career education at the high school level is to prepare students for occupations related to the area of work being considered. Preparation in the early stages by the students becoming familiar with current and future job opportunities and detailed examinations of social and personal attributes related to selected occupations. Also, where possible, to involve students in actual or simulated training programs in selected occupations.



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CAREER EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL

1. Preparation by examining personal values, goals and experiences and by analyzing present and projected life styles.
2. Preparation through the examination of values and rewards associated with a job.
3. Preparation of a plan for long range goals, and realize that these career oriented goals must consider flexible alternatives, then associate these goals with courses taken in school.
4. Preparation by examining training, (education), cost, and other requirements involved in a particular career choice. Also, investigation of how one may finance the necessary training or education.
5. Preparation by developing skills, knowledge and attitudes through on-the-job experiences, laboratory experiences and/or collections of data about a particular career, observations, and refinement of "academic" skills related to career choice.
6. Preparation of personnel description through surveys of jobs.
7. Preparation through the association of academic subjects to careers and recognize the educational steps necessary to qualify for a particular career.
8. Preparation by demonstrating academic requirements, personal requirements, communication requirements and proper attitudes toward a career choice.
9. Preparation by informing students of the proper procedures and policies of seeking employment.

REMEMBER

THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF CAREER EDUCATION IS TO EXPOSE YOUNG PEOPLE TO A WIDE VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL AREAS; TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF CAREERS THEY MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT; AND TO DEVELOP AN INTEREST, EARLY IN LIFE, ABOUT CAREERS A STUDENT MAY WISH TO INVESTIGATE.