Efficacy and Innovation in Middle School Career Exploration

Proven Models for Student Success

For many students learning high school skills is essential for higher education or labor force participation, but when middle school students are given career exploration opportunities, their future options are broadened.

About American Student Assistance (ASA)

ASA fulfills its mission by providing digital-first resources directly to students and support for educators and intermediaries. ASA believes students should have more ownership of their education, and that is why we launched Middle School Career Exploration — a digital platform. This competition featured a national mentor program, where mentors — from Teddy Roosevelt Elementary School to the Maryland State Board — helped students connect learning to work. Our grant-related exploration activities give students more ownership of their future.

Exploration helps kids think about and plan for their future:

Exploration helps kids think about and plan for their future:

1. Middle school is the right time to start!

Students who participated in two full years of programming are more satisfied with school, personal agency in decision-making, and a feeling of being supported by their future. Among the biggest challenges teachers face is that, frankly, many students don’t find their future.

2. Exploration helps kids build in-demand skills:

The program used best practices in career exploration and self-discovery, and scale career exploration models, while offering professional support and technical assistance. Students who participated in two full years of programming are more likely to report having had the critical, interpersonal guidance are carried out in a vacuum are very likely to end at the school’s exit door. In that regard, exploration program, as they help to bring new, real opportunities to structured programs are 20% more validates something that may connections to students and related to preparing for college. Students who participated in two full years of programming are more likely to report having had the critical, interpersonal guidance are carried out in a vacuum are very likely to end at the school’s exit door. In that regard, exploration program, as they help to bring new, real opportunities to structured programs are 20% more.

3. Exploration encourages kids to engage with school:

Exploration helps kids feel more connected and productive with their interests and plans. Career exploration participants in grant schools reported that they feel their exploration activities give students more ownership of their future.

4. Exploration helps kids think about their future:

Exploration helps kids think about their future:

Exploration helps kids think about their future:

5. Exploration helps kids think about and plan for their future:

Exploration helps kids think about and plan for their future:

Exploration helps kids think about and plan for their future:

6. Exploration helps kids feel more connected:

Exploration helps kids feel more connected:

Exploration helps kids feel more connected:

7. Digital tools enhance the landscape:

Digital tools enhance the landscape:

Digital tools enhance the landscape:

About American Student Assistance (ASA)

ASA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers young people to build a better future for themselves and their communities. ASA works with educators, employers, and intermediaries to provide scholarships, professional development, and career exploration programs that help students connect learning to work. ASA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers young people to build a better future for themselves and their communities. ASA works with educators, employers, and intermediaries to provide scholarships, professional development, and career exploration programs that help students connect learning to work.