

Lesson 7 – Programs of Study for All Students

Introduction

Programs of Study — that phrase ought to be familiar to you by now. This is another change that came about as a result of House Bill 5, but the concept behind Programs of Study has been around for a long time. To put it in the simplest terms, a Program of Study is a recommended course sequence designed to prepare a student to find work and advance in a chosen career field. But there's a lot more to it than that — as we'll see!

Requiring students to select a Program of Study brings with it some new responsibilities for educators. The good news is these adjustments will create a much more comprehensive, integrated approach to planning and advising. It will also help improve communication between educators in the early, middle and high schools grades so students will be exposed to relevant, consistent information at appropriate developmental levels throughout their educations.

Some people are concerned that Programs of Study amount to tracking. Not so. In fact, flexibility and exposure to lots of different careers and subjects are built in to the legislation that requires Programs of Study. Take a look!

7.1 Middle School Student Perspective

Student 1: My teachers have been telling me I am really strong in math and I'm looking forward to it in college. I was thinking about a mechanical engineer or an accountant. Mechanical engineer, my dad has taught me a lot of stuff. It takes a lot of mathematics. An accountant takes a lot of calculating and stuff for math.

Student 2: Right now what I'm interested in is physical therapy and engineering. I would like to take stuff for the body so that when athletes get hurt I can repair them.