



Merced County ROP: Career Center Operation

CAREER CENTER MISSION STATEMENT-

The mission of the Career Center is to offer a career guidance program and to provide assistance and resources to support students in making real life connections to academic learning. The Career Center, in conjunction with ROP, enables students to gain the skills, ability, and confidence to transition successfully to post-secondary education, work and life. The Career Center provides support so that all students may graduate from high school with the tools needed to answer the “life long learning” questions:

Who Am I?
Where Am I Going?
How Do I Get There?

OUR BELIEF - CAREER EDUCATION

Merced County ROP, under the direction of the Merced County Office of Education, has taken an active role in implementation of career education and guidance programs within the high school districts we serve. In the belief that career education and work-based learning experiences are an integral part of education. Merced County ROP will stand ready as a partner in assisting schools with their Career Guidance/Preparation Program. An effective Career Guidance/Preparation Program should draw from the competencies and philosophies set forth in the following publications while allowing flexibility for local school district needs:

- National Standards for School Counseling Program
- National Career Development Guidelines
- SCANS
- California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards
- Career Technical Education Framework for California Public Schools
- WASC Accreditation
- School and ROP ESLRS

Across Merced County schools, many exciting activities are currently in place in the area of career development. It means taking a team approach in developing a comprehensive plan which includes guidance and counseling personnel, as well as academic and career-technical teachers in order to assist students to set realistic career goals.

WHERE THE CAREER CENTERS AND CAREER TECHNICIAN FITS IN

The Career Center is the nucleus of a high school Career Guidance/Preparation Program. It serves as a resource for each educational level of career education, as well as an integral part of the overall guidance program. The Career Center, under the supervision of the Career Technician, would serve as the resource center for students and teachers by:

1. Becoming a center where students and teachers could explore career opportunities:
 - to learn about occupations consistent with student interests and abilities
 - for understanding of postsecondary training opportunities that could fulfill personal needs and goals
 - regarding scholarship and financial aid
2. Promoting career sectors by:
 - organizing career guidance materials and postsecondary information around school-adopted and/or CDE recommended career sectors
 - working with assigned school staff to create effective promotional career sector materials
3. Working with assigned school staff to implement career development activities which:
 - are consistent with the school's career guidance plan
 - are age appropriate across the curriculum
4. Providing the following career education information to teachers:
 - updates on emerging careers and workforce trends, and labor market information
 - new resources which are available and relevant to specific content areas
5. Promoting workplace connections at school through organized and frequent visitations by outside speakers which represent a variety of career paths.
6. Demonstrating the variety of ways Career-Technical courses reinforce academic standards.
7. Working with school staff to arrange and chaperone students on visitations to college campuses.
8. Connecting with feeder schools (elementary and middle) as part of the high school's comprehensive guidance outreach program and as requested by the high school.
9. Serving as a mentor and resource to students in developing job readiness skills.