

Designing for Scale: Regional Work-Based Learning Resource Hub

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Our Vision

Clear, unambiguous paths to college and career opportunities that equip students for meaningful participation in the global economy.

Pillars of Work

- Policy: Shaping systems for equitable college and career access
- Practices: Improving learner experiences and outcomes
- Impact: Driving systemic change through data and networks

Areas of Practice

- College and career pathways
- Career-connected and work-based learning
- Transitional instruction
- Early college coursework
- Flexible learning
- Longitudinal data
- Collective impact networks

Agenda

1 Welcome and Session Framing

2 Our Context: Work-Based Learning in Illinois

3 Scaling a Regional Work-Based Learning Hub

4 Turn & Talk Activity

5 Questions and Closing



OUR CONTEXT

Work-Based Learning in Illinois

State Policy Alignment



A Plan to Revitalize the
Illinois Economy and Build
the Workforce of the
Future



Illinois Career
Pathways
Dictionary



Saving Time and Money for Illinois Students!

ESSA

Every Student Succeeds
Act

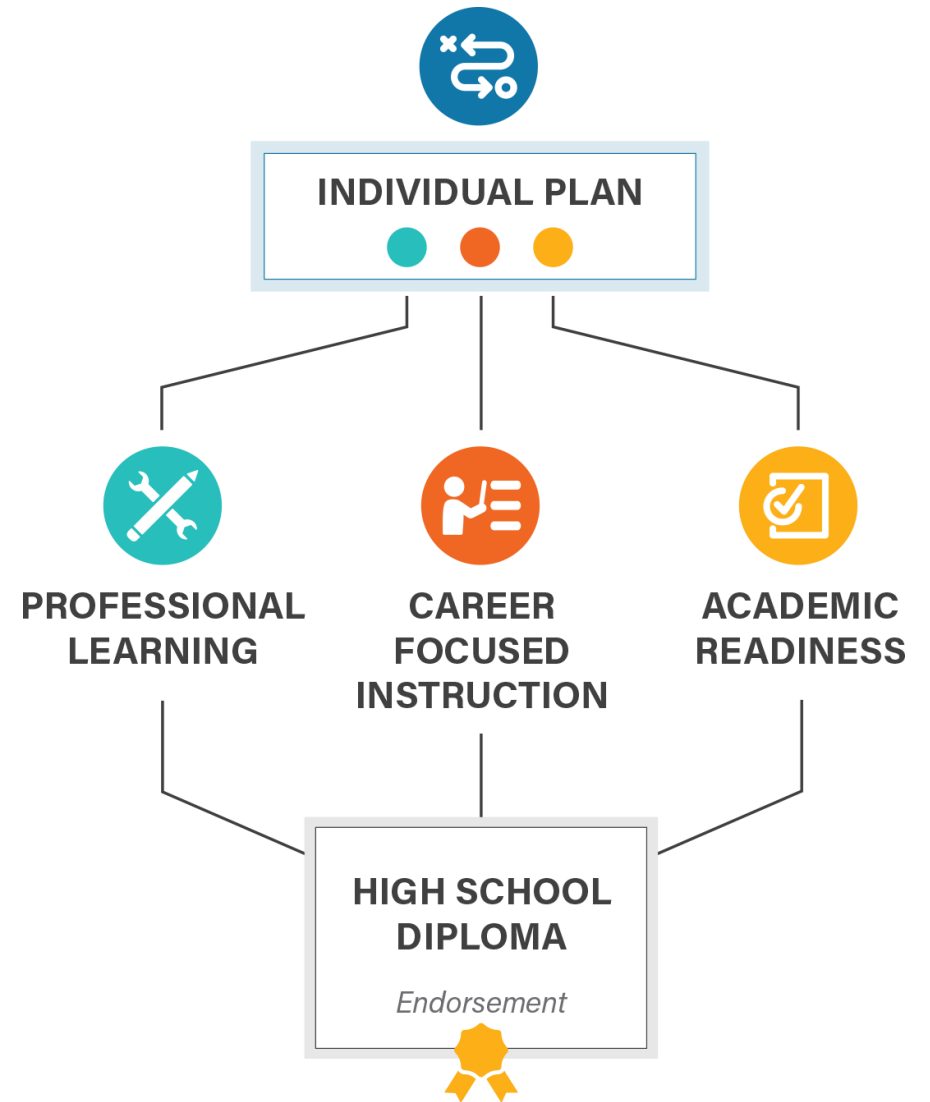
College & Career
Readiness Indicator

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act

2016 Public Act 99-0674 (HB5729)

COMPONENTS

- Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE)
- Scaling of 12th grade transitional courses (math and English)
- **College and Career Pathway Endorsements** on high school diplomas
- Pilot of competency-based high school graduation requirements



Work-Based Learning Continuum

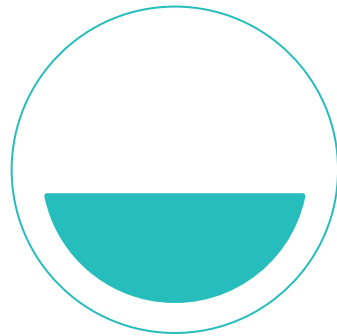
As defined by statute and state agencies; see the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#)



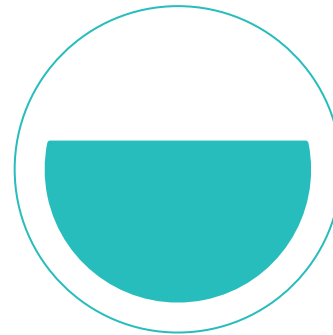
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING



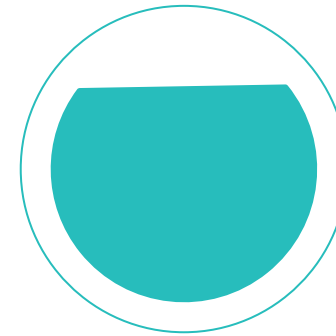
Career
Awareness



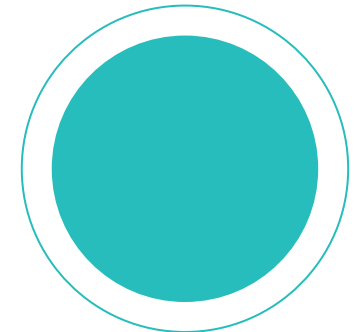
Career
Exploration



Team-Based
Challenge



Career
Development
Experience*



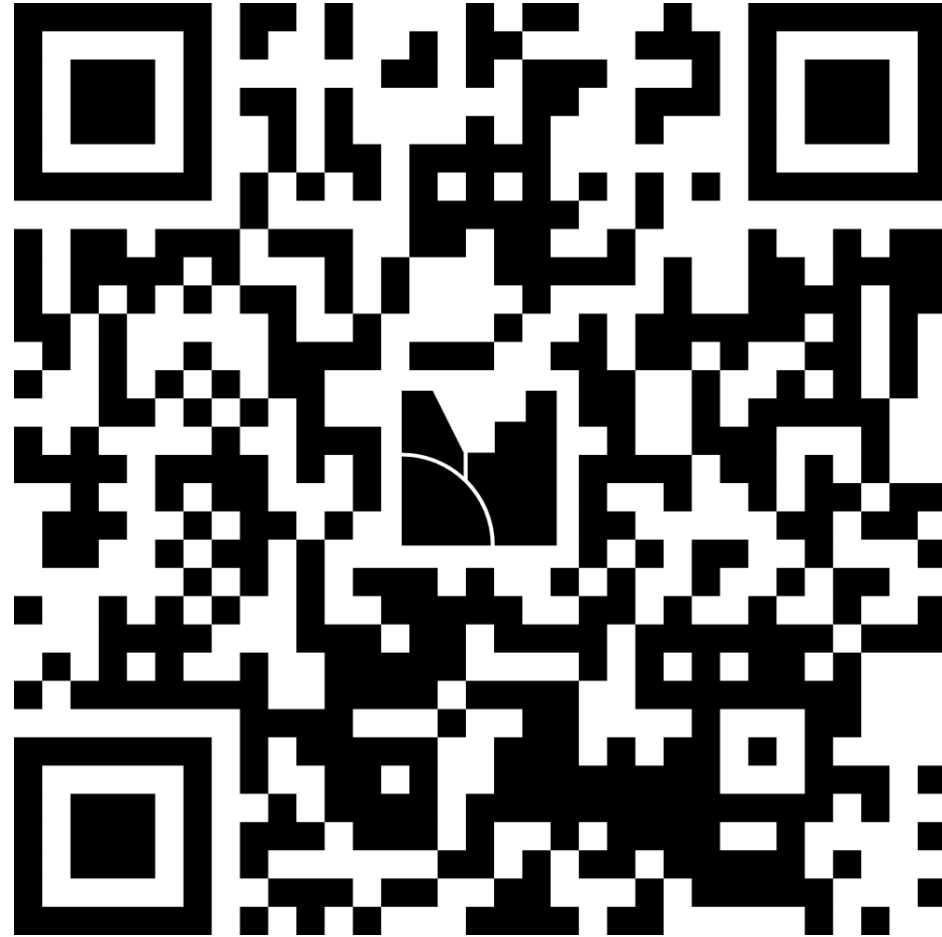
Apprenticeship

**Internship, school-based enterprise, supervised agricultural experience, workplace learning education, research apprenticeship, remote work, student-led enterprise, or youth/pre-apprenticeship.*



Building a Regional Work-Based Learning Hub

Work-Based Learning Pulse Check





THE CHALLENGE:

Silos

vs.

Systems

COMMON BARRIERS:

- Duplicate efforts across districts and organizations
- Inconsistent language or metrics around student completion of opportunities and progress across continuum
- Employer coordination and communication
- Challenges with access and scale across the region

Lake County Work-Based Learning Hub

To support sustainable scaling of high-quality work-based learning experiences in Lake County, Illinois, EdSystems is collaborating with the College of Lake County, University Center of Lake County, Lake County Regional Office of Education, Lake County Tech Campus, and the region's high schools to design process maps and maintain an inventory of experiences.

INVENTORY
SUBMIT AN OPPORTUNITY
PROCESS MAP

Explore the Inventory

All WBL Types ▾

All WBL Continuum Stages ▾

All School Districts ▾

All Industry Sectors ▾

Reset

Career Fair and Team-Based Challenge via Endeavor Health's Healthcare Discovery Day – Health Sciences

WBL Type: Career Fair, Regional Competition

Continuum Stage: Career Exploration, Team-Based Challenge

District: Grayslake Community High School District 127, Round Lake

➔ LEARN MORE

College of Lake County STEM Day for Girls

WBL Type: Interactive Tool, Video, Self-Reflection Activity, Guest Speaker, Career Fair, Mentoring

Continuum Stage: Career Awareness, Career Exploration

District: Grayslake Community High School District 127

➔ LEARN MORE

Community High School D128 Career Fair – Education

WBL Type: Career Fair

Continuum Stage: Career Exploration

District: Community High School District 128

➔ LEARN MORE

Community High School D128 Career Fair – Finance & Business Services

WBL Type: Career Fair

Continuum Stage: Career Awareness

District: Community High School District 128

➔ LEARN MORE

Lake County Work-Based Learning Experience:

Career Fair and Team-Based Challenge via Endeavor Health's Healthcare Discovery Day – Health Sciences

Snapshot		Description
WBL Type	Career Fair, Regional Competition	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">"The Healthcare Discovery Day at Grayslake North High School allowed students from five area high schools to learn more about career options in healthcare from people working in the industry." Learn more here: https://www.endeavorhealth.org/articles/CIIF-partner-aspires-inspires-students</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 5px 0;">Published on June 30, 2025</p>
Continuum Stage	Career Exploration, Team-Based Challenge	
Partner	ASPIRE Lake County Community Workforce Development collaborative, Endeavor Health	
District	Grayslake Community High School District 127, Round Lake	
School		
Available for Grade(s)		
Industry Sector	Healthcare & Human Services	
Date/Season	Spring	
Location of WBL	In Classroom/School	
In SchoolLinks?		
Contact	Gina Schuyler	

This information was gathered as part of EdSystems' support for college and career pathways in Lake County.

Purpose:

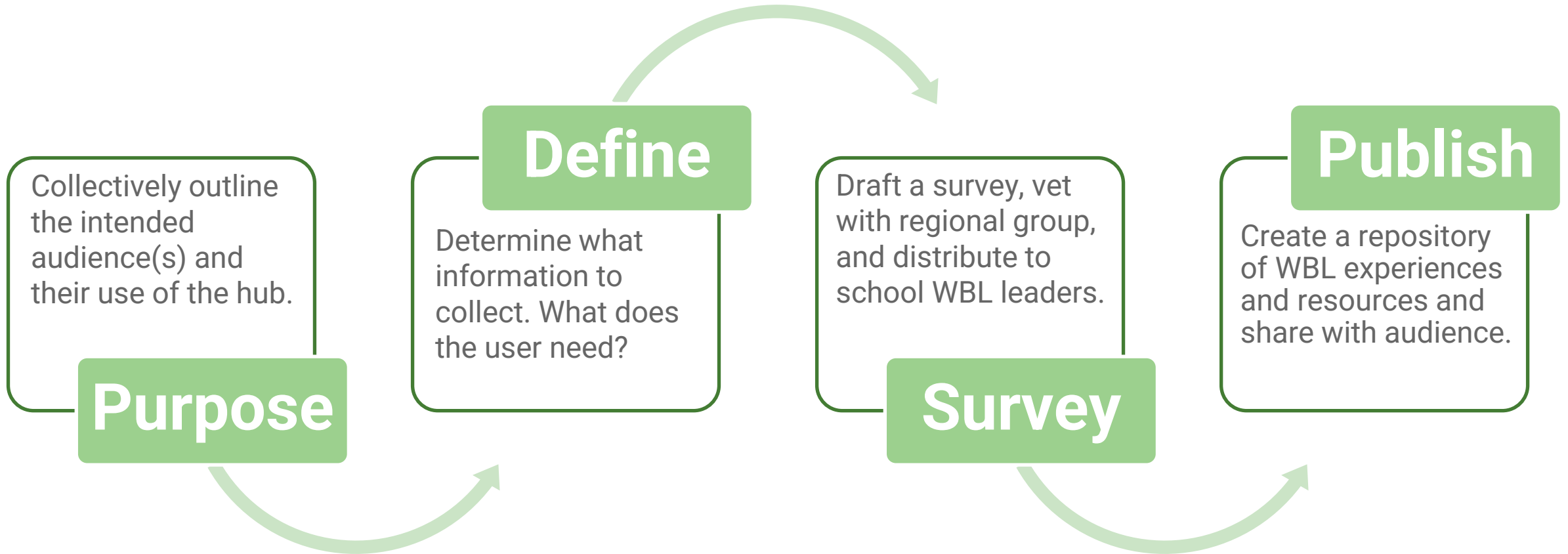
- Map regional resources
- Support educators
- Strengthen partnerships
- Improve coordination
- Share & scale what works



DEMO

Lake County Work-Based Learning Hub

Regional Hub: Our Process



Collecting Information

Participating districts and their associated **point of contact** for the experience

Description and experience type (job shadow, career fair etc.), including resources that can be viewed as inspiration or awareness building

Identified work-based learning **continuum component** (career awareness, career exploration, team-based challenge, career development experience)

Student **grade level and time of year** the opportunity is offered

Which **industry sectors/pathways** the opportunity aligns with, and any **employer partners** involved

If the experience is already identified in **SchoolLinks** (regional college and career readiness platform)

Regional Hub: Value Add

Practitioner-Facing Tool

- Resources to be shared between districts (currently not a feature of SchoolLinks)
- Fosters collaboration between districts across the region

Accessibility and Longevity

- A website that can eventually live out of a regional office (i.e., *Education for Employment or Regional Office of Education*)
- No pay walls or subscriptions
- Can be used for external employer / partner recruitment and engagement

Process for Survey Distribution

Assemble working group of regional leaders

Consider **leaders** in CTE curriculum, college and career readiness, counseling/advising, employer engagement, etc.

- Focus on **co-creation** of the hub:
- What is important to capture in a work-based learning experience?
 - Who might be best positioned to contribute to this type of tool?

Use designated times to **collect** WBL

We have found it is more challenging to engage via email and have prioritized **in-person meetings**



Next step: SchoolLinks integration

Integrating SchoolLinks

The screenshot displays the 'Event Schedule' section of the SchoolLinks platform. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Event Schedule' (selected), 'Pending Requests', 'Partner Events', and 'Past Events'. Below these are filter buttons: 'Filter' (with a dropdown arrow), 'College Reps' (with an 'x'), 'Career Fairs' (with an 'x'), and 'Industry Speakers' (with an 'x'). Two event cards are shown, both for 'Wed, Feb 12, 2:00–3:00pm'. Each card features a 'Career Fair' tag (with a person icon) and a 'STEM' tag (with a rocket icon). The event details are: 'District-wide • 9-12'. Below this, a row of statistics shows: '112 Students', '10 Guardians', '2 Industry Partners', and '0 College Partners'. Each card also has a calendar icon and an edit icon in the top right corner.

- Lake County ROE is offering all districts access to support students, parents in college and career planning
 - Includes work-based learning extension
- Engaging with SchoolLinks to build custom reports to update the hub
- Will reduce demands on staff

* Note: EdSystems does not endorse this or any other paid platform or tool



Questions?



*How might you begin
building a regional hub?*

TURN & TALK ACTIVITY

Turn & Talk

- What similarities or differences do you notice across the work-based learning problems your table identified?
- Which parts of the problem feel most systemic (policies, structures, coordination) versus local (capacity, relationships, awareness)
- Who are the groups most impacted by the problem (i.e. students, educators, employers, counselors)
- What aspects of this challenge might benefit most from a *regional* approach?

Closing Reflections

Something still
circling in my
head is...

Today's discussion
squares with my
thinking because...

One
important
point from
today is...



I-WIN

Illinois Work-Based Learning
Innovation Network

Explore the [I-WIN Resource Hub](#)
and [subscribe to the newsletter](#)



Highlight and explore
innovative models for
work-based learning



Engage in conversations
on creating sustainable,
high-quality models that
provide broader and
more equitable access,
focusing on building
social capital for
students furthest from
opportunity



Build connections
among communities to
share best practices,
learnings and resources



Identify needs for state
policy changes or
support systems

Thank you!



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