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## ***Promising Practice Brief*** **Licking County's Career Development System (in Newark, Ohio)**

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### **Program Background**

- The Career and Technology Education Centers (C-TEC), a non-profit organization in Licking County, works closely with its ten associated K-12 school districts to align academic standards and career development standards.
- The program began with a summer workshop that connected high school teachers, counselors, and C-TEC staff. The participants agreed that all students should have a career focus, and that adopting career clusters was one efficient way of organizing course and opportunity options.
- This is only one aspect of C-TEC's mission, as the organization also serves adult populations with basic education, workforce development, customized training, and continuing education.
- Key components of this program include:
  - Reliability from one school district to another
  - Consistency across academic transitions (e.g., middle school to high school)
  - Strong communication and partnerships, leading to high levels of buy-in, among schools, business partners, and C-TEC.

### **Career Development Activity Highlights**

- *“Career-Infused” Lesson Plans* – A group of teachers has partnered with C-TEC to create lesson plans that simultaneously address the academic content standards from Ohio's achievement tests and career topics. A subset of the ten school districts have a system of ready-made learning activities that emphasize career awareness (grades K – 4), career exploration (grades 5 – 8), and career preparation (grades 9 – 12).
- *Individual Success Plan* – a planning document that is created by the student and his/her parents in 10<sup>th</sup> grade (similar to the Individual Career Plan in Ohio's Career Development Program).
- *Career Passport* – All students complete the *Career Passport* from Ohio's Career Development program. Standard components include a student resume, student identification of career goals and rationale, transcript, copies of diplomas and licenses.

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## **Evidence of Success**

- The use of “career-infused” lesson plans was shown to result in a 15% increase in career maturity (in both attitudes and competencies) between an experimental and control group of students.

## **More Information**

Additional information regarding C-TEC can be found online <http://www.c-tec.edu/index.asp>

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## **Reference**

Cassidy, R. A. (2007, April). The benefits of a comprehensive K-12 career development system. *Techniques*, 82(4), 44-46.