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Promising Practice Brief **North Carolina Public Schools – Career Development Education**

Program Background

- This program defines career development as “a process that involves students, parents, teachers, counselors, and the community, [with the goal of] helping students make good decisions about themselves and their future.”
- Within this process, students enrolled in Career-Technical Education courses across the state explore, develop, and implement individual career development plans.
- Career Development Coordinators administer Career Management curriculum and services that are "designed to help students understand the lifelong, sequential process of determining self and career identity." Topics addressed include: making good decisions about education, work, and life roles; securing employment; and succeeding in a rapidly changing world of work.
- Curriculum development and service functions are based on the National Career Development Guidelines, which are openly endorsed by the North Carolina State Board of Education. The National Standards for School Counseling Programs also influence this program, as one-third of the North Carolina Comprehensive School Counseling program focuses on career development competencies.

Career Development Activity Highlights

- *Instructional Courses* – Currently resources for two instructional courses (Exploring Career Decisions and Career Management) are provided on the Career Development Education website. These resources include a course blueprint and curriculum guides. The course blueprint shows all units of instruction that are intended to be used by teachers in planning daily lesson plans and constructing valid assessments. Curriculum guides provide specific resources and talking points that teachers may use within their classrooms.
- *Career Development Coordinator Program Guide* – This resource is designed to help Career Development Coordinators plan and implement programs in their local schools and school systems. It includes a blueprint job description for Career Development Coordinators, a list of strategies and measurements for each desired career competency, a breakdown of competences by area and educational level (i.e., elementary, middle/junior high school, high

DRAFT

school, adult), a description of the career planning process, and suggested outreach and advertising documents.

- *Informational Website* – Information regarding the Career Development Education program is available on the North Carolina Public School’s Career-Technical Education website (http://www.ncpublicschools.org/workforce_development/career-dev/index.html). All supporting documentation and course materials can be easily accessed from this website.

Evidence of Success

- *Uncertain – have not found “evidence” to date.*

More Information

Additional information regarding the Career Development Education program in North Carolina can be found online at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/workforce_development/career-dev/index.html

Reference

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