

School District of Nekoosa
Implementation of Chapter PI-26

All career and technical education classes and programs are offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

What is PI-26?

[Chapter PI-26](#) is the legislation in the State of Wisconsin that requires every school district to provide academic and career planning services to pupils enrolled in grades 6 to 12 in the school district beginning in the 2017-18 school year. This chapter establishes the requirements for education for employment programs. The purpose of education for employment programs is to do all the following: (a) Prepare elementary and secondary pupils for future employment, (b) Ensure technological literacy; to promote lifelong learning, (c) Promote good citizenship, (d) Promote cooperation among business, industry, labor, postsecondary schools, and public schools, (e) Establish a role for public schools in the economic development of Wisconsin.

What is Academic and Career Planning (ACP)?

[Academic and Career Planning \(ACP\)](#) is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for postsecondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills.

Wood County Job Market

https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/wits_info/downloads/CP/wood_profile.pdf from 2023 generated by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

[Wisconsin Recovery Report 2021-23](#) The Projections Unit of the Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) develops long-term (10-year period) and short-term (2-year period) outlooks of employment in Wisconsin's industries and occupations. Employment trends are examined in approximately 270 industries and 800 occupations. This summary highlights some of the main findings for short-term projections 2021 second quarter to 2023 second quarter.

Labor market information suggests that careers in Education and Health Services, Construction, and Leisure and Hospitality are the fastest growing career fields in our area. Wood County unfortunately only offers higher wages than the state average in one sector, Education and Health. All industry wages decreased by -1.8% from 2017. Because of the value of these industries in Wood County the School District of Nekoosa provides students with the opportunity

to participate in Youth Apprenticeships, School to Work, and Dual Credit options in these fields. In addition, students have access to Career and Technical Student Organizations (Future Business Leaders of America and Family Career and Community Leaders of America) and relevant course offerings. Through these experiences and ACP curriculum, students become familiar with the educational and training requirements for occupations that will fit these employment needs.

Students are provided with information and guidance to make informed decisions regarding their educational and career path, whether their career goals are leading to an in-demand career area or a unique, narrow occupational area. Through the utilization of district developed ACP planning documents and templates, career exploration events, self-assessment, and dual credit coursework, the School District of Nekoosa prepares students for life beyond high school in a variety of ways.

Communicate with Parents regarding Academic and Career Planning

The School District of Nekoosa Counseling staff offers meetings with students and parents in grades 6-12. ACP advisors contact parents regularly throughout the year regarding student progress and guided ACP conferences between advisors and parents will take place at least once per school year.

Engaging Community Stakeholders in Academic and Career Planning

The School District of Nekoosa partners with over 50 South Wood County and northern Adams County businesses. These partnerships were developed in part through strong partnerships with leading organizations in the community.

- Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
- Job Center of Wisconsin
- North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
- Business Education Alliance through Mid-State Technical College
- The Upper Mississippi Manufacturing Alliance (TUMMA)

Our partners help to expose students to career choices, serve as placement for career-based learning, participate in career fairs and panels, host staff tours, and facilitate development of employability skills.

Education partnerships also exist with Mid-State Technical College where we have an on-site High School Outreach Coordinator (Jackie Esselman) to assist with postsecondary exploration by our students. Dual Credit options have also been expanded to include Fox Valley Technical College and our main Start College Now partner is UW-Stevens Point. Other postsecondary schools reach out to students through our counseling offices to assist with student enrollment, financial aid, college tours, and application events.

Individualized ACP Support

Each student in the School District of Nekoosa is assigned to an advisory group consisting of a staff advisor and 15-18 students. In these groups, staff advisors implement a monthly ACP lesson developed by the ACP Coordinator.

Students at Nekoosa High School participate in advisory four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) throughout their high school career. They stay with the same advisory teacher throughout their four-year career. Students are in groups of 15-18 students from their same grade level. One day per week, students will remain in their advisory classroom to work on team building, social-emotional learning, and ACP activities for that month. Throughout their high school career they will work to develop a career portfolio which is their capstone project for ACP and will present it to a community panel before graduation, a graduation requirement.

[Xello Activities for Students Grades 9-12](#)

Middle School Activities

Revamping of the ACP activities at Alexander Middle School will be revamped in the 2021-22 school year as the counselor works with Career and Technical Education staff who are now offering exploratory courses to 7th and 8th grade students.

6th Grade: Career Interest Survey, group career discussion with Guidance Counselor and 6th grade teachers, and exploration of local technical college and four-year college degrees.

7th Grade: College “Career Days” at Mid-State Technical College and Career Interest Inventory

8th Grade: Heavy Metal Bus Tour (based on availability), Academic and Career Planning Unit, CareerLocker Assessments and Inventories

Preparing Staff

At Nekoosa High School, ACP was in pilot form for the 2015-16 school year and in full implementation for the 2016-17 year. Monthly meetings take place at Nekoosa High School for all grade level advisors, School Counselor, and ACP Coordinator. This time we update all staff on any changes that need to be made to the ACP process, recap of the monthly activities, and look ahead to upcoming events for each grade level.

Alexander Middle School students have a grade level teacher who assists the Counselor in working with students to determine career interests, abilities, and options that they will explore

further when they enter Nekoosa High School. The ACP four-year plan is introduced in the spring to help with freshman course selection.

Students with Disabilities

ACP is for all students in the Nekoosa School District. All students participate in a grade level advisory group, except for Intellectually Disabled students who are in their own advisory group but participate in their own appropriate career prep activities. Special Education teachers do not have a separate advisory, instead they are available during advisory time to meet with their caseload students and are welcomed at the ACP Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Students in grades 11 and 12 meet with a [DVR](#) representative to aide in the transition process.

Course Offerings and Dual Credit Options

AP Courses offered at NHS:

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus
- AP Language and Composition
- AP Literature and Composition
- AP U.S. Politics and Government
- AP Psychology
- AP Statistics
- AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
- AP Studio Art: 3-D Design
- AP US History
- AP World History

Dual Credit with Mid-State Technical College

- Child Development
- Mental Health and Stress Management
- Introduction to Business
- Introduction to Fisheries, Forestry, and Wildlife
- Introduction to Horticulture

- Introduction to Microsoft Office
- Marketing Principles
- Nutrition for Healthy Living
- Oral/Interpersonal Communication
- Foundations of Early Childhood
- Essential Concepts of Health & Wellness

Department of Public Instruction Certification

- Assistant Child Care Teacher
- Infant/Toddler Development

ProStart Certification

- Culinary Arts I
- Culinary Arts II

An updated ACP website was launched in Spring 2021 with our [Career Pathways](#) offered to students. The courses were broken into four strong pathways that our current course offerings support: Agriculture, Construction, and Manufacturing Technologies; Arts, Global Communications, and Information Systems; Business, Management, and Entrepreneurship; Health Sciences and Human Services.

Progress & Future Goals for Implementation

As we just started using Xello we are hopeful that our students will find it valuable while choosing a future path for after graduation. The ultimate goal for using Xello is for each student to have a college or career plan after graduation, share their growth from freshman to senior year, and complete a capstone presentation, where they share their successes with a panel of adults.