

Pathways to Prosperity

Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century
Harvard Graduate School of Education, February 2011

The report states, "...we have focused too exclusively on a few narrow pathways to success."
(P11)

"Our current system places far too much emphasis on a single pathway to success: attending and graduating from a four-year college after completing an academic program of study in high school." (P24)

"The first element is the development of a broader vision of school reform that incorporates multiple pathways to carry young people from high school to adulthood." (P23)

"Even as we advocate this multiple pathways approach, we do not mean to downplay efforts to improve academic instruction in our schools..." (P25)

"In the U.S., our goal should be to assist every young adult beginning at the end of middle school to develop an individualized pathway plan that would include career objectives; a program of study; degree and/or certificate objectives; and work-linked learning experiences." (P30)
Currently, Michigan law requires that secondary students complete an Educational Development Plan (EDP).

Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce forecasts 47 million replacement worker job openings in the decade ending in 2018. "While they predict that a record 63 percent of these openings will require some college education or better, they state that nearly half of these post-secondary positions will only require an A.A. degrees or less." (P29)

The report addresses an expanded role for employers. "In middle school, this would include career counseling, job shadowing, and opportunities to work on projects or problems designed by industry partners." (P30)

"In high school, it would include programs of study designed in collaboration with industry leaders, as well as opportunity for more intensive work-based learning such as paid internships."
(P30)

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