



RAISE THE BAR:

Create Pathways for Global Engagement

Unlocking Career Success



Let’s transform how our nation’s high schools prepare students to thrive. Every student should have access to career-connected learning experiences that help them find their passions, sharpen their skills, and brighten their futures.

“Raise the Bar: Lead the World” is the U.S. Department of Education’s call to transform education and unite around what works—based on decades of experience and research—to advance educational equity and excellence. As part of our Raise the Bar efforts to create pathways for global engagement, the Department is working to ensure every student has an onramp to college and careers.

Most good jobs—those providing a living wage—require some postsecondary education and training. We must further connect our education and workforce systems to unlock pathways to postsecondary credentials and social and economic mobility.



Keys to Unlocking Career Success

The Department launched Unlocking Career Success as an interagency initiative that reimagines how our nation’s high schools prepare all students to thrive in their future careers. The initiative blurs the lines between high school, college, and careers, providing students with accelerated and innovative opportunities to earn college credits and gain real-world professional experiences. This joint effort across the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Commerce supports public- and private-sector leaders, government agencies, and other community-based organizations to help students earn





postsecondary degrees and industry credentials that our employers need and that our economy demands. Through the Unlocking Career Success initiative, students will gain hands-on experiences in emerging, innovative industries that our nation needs to build and lead for the future.

We call on governors, mayors, boards of education, postsecondary systems, workforce boards, and district and school leaders—working in partnership with parents, families, communities, and educators—to join us in Unlocking Career Success for students across our country.

THE FOUR KEYS

- Dual enrollment**, which provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit during high school
- Work-based learning**, which enables students to gain early exposure to real-world professional experiences
- Workforce credentials**, which help students develop a competitive edge for their careers
- Career advising and navigation**, which support students in making informed decisions about life after high school.

To support this work, the Unlocking Career Success initiative includes the following components:

 <p>PRACTICAL TOOLS AND PLAYBOOKS</p>	 <p>COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE</p>	 <p>SUMMITS AND EXEMPLARS</p>	 <p>CAREER-CONNECTED HIGH SCHOOL GRANT</p>
<p>A suite of tools and resources for stakeholders on a new website focused on college- and career-readiness</p>	<p>A number of forums to hear directly from the field about the challenges and opportunities in advancing college- and career-readiness for students</p>	<p>A set of regional convenings to uplift promising practices, share learnings, and highlight exemplars within each of the initiative’s four keys to success</p>	<p>A \$25 million grant that will establish or advance grantees’ work to advance college and career pathways</p>

Please visit the Department’s [Raise the Bar webpage](#) to learn more about the specific strategies outlined here, to get connected to resources, and to find links to grants that can support the efforts and strategies of states and districts.