



Battelle *for Kids*

JobLinks Tennessee: K-8 Toolkit

Making Essential Connections Between Education and Jobs

Presenter



Joe T. Wood

jwood@battelleforkids.org

About Battelle for Kids »

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving opportunities for students by supporting the educators who work with them every day.

We believe in the power of education. We know that by helping educators to become their best, we have the opportunity to change lives. Everything we do is guided by this common belief.

With headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, our mission-driven team of education, communications, technology, and business professionals provides teachers, leaders, and school systems with innovative services, solutions, and products to ensure pathways to success for every student.

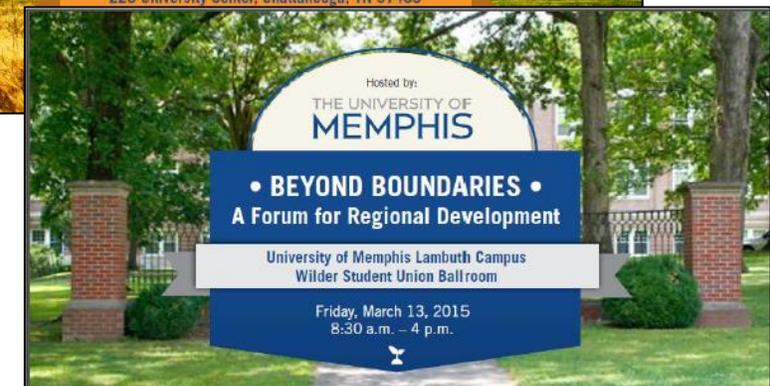
The Challenge: Connecting Education and Jobs

Battelle for Kids asked hundreds of Tennessee educators:

“What challenges do students face in making connections between what they learn in school and the jobs they will hold in the future?”

We found five themes:

- » A lack of meaningful exposure to different careers
- » Difficulty understanding the purpose of what they learn
- » A need for hands-on learning opportunities
- » Limited availability of career-related resources in schools
- » Entering the job market without the necessary skills



Why Build Career Connections?

From Measure of America's (2013) study of youth disconnection:

- There are around 5.8 million disconnected youth—young adults ages 16-24 who are neither working nor in school—in the U.S.
- In 2011, youth disconnection cost \$93.7 billion in government support and lost tax revenue.
- One of the main reasons students cite for dropping out of school is that they do not see the point of it.

From ACT's (2014) report, *The Forgotten Middle*:

- Academic achievement in 8th grade is among the best predictor of college readiness.
- Less than 20 percent of 8th graders are on track to be ready for college-level work by the time they graduate high school.

JobLinks K-8 Toolkit

Developed by Battelle for Kids

The JobLinks Toolkit is a resource repository that helps educators prepare students for their future through meaningful exposure to various career options.

JobLinks Tennessee: K-8 Toolkit
Developed by: Battelle for Kids

Introduction

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" When asked this question, some students can confidently respond, with a clear sense of purpose and direction. Many, however, face uncertainty about their future, not knowing enough about themselves or their career options to choose their path. Yet, engagement in school requires relevance; students must understand how their current learning will affect their future success.

In spring 2015, Battelle for Kids (BFK) got education faculty, and business and community challenges they face in helping students respond to their responses, five key themes emerged: students' difficulty in understanding the job market, limited availability of learning opportunities, limited availability of entering the job market without necessary skills.

BFK developed this toolkit to address these challenges and careers. The toolkit leverages Tennessee educators—compiling them into a coherent, accessible resource. Resources are organized by grade level:

- K-2: Discover**
Students gain awareness of jobs within their community.
- 3-5: Engage**
Students broaden their understanding of jobs and begin to cultivate their personal interests.
- 6-8: Invest**
Students explore their career interests, uncover their strengths, and plan for their future.

Within each category, resources are tagged with icons:

- C** Career Exploration
- A** Interest/Skills Assessments

BFK believes education is the key to help Tennessee students shape their future.

Toolkit Contents

- K-2: Discover
- 3-5: Engage
- 6-8: Invest

Parent Guide

JobLinks Tennessee: K-8 Toolkit
Developed by: Battelle for Kids

U.S. Mint: Financial Literacy **C**

- Resources: Activities, lesson plans, and resources to promote financial literacy
- Link: http://www.usmint.gov/505teachers/financial_literacy/

Virginia Career View **C** **P** **A**

- Resources: Career exploration tools—including online games, self-assessments, career profiles, brochures and career activities for parents, and toolkits for educators—for grades K-8
- Link: <http://www.vacareview.org/k5/>

3-5: Engage

American Veterinary Medicine Association Tools for K-12 Educators **C** **P**

- Resources: Lesson plans, activity books, career brochures, games and other resources for K-3, 4-6, and 7-12 classrooms
- Link: <https://www.avma.org/92612/pages/avma-educational-resources.aspx>

Bureau of Labor Statistics—Students **C** **P**

- Resources: Games and quizzes, careers organized by interest types, video career profiles, economic and workforce information, activities (e.g., "Choosing a Career"—comprehensive career exploration project)
- Link: <http://www.bls.gov/k12teachers.htm>

Code.org **C**

- Resources: Games, tutorials, and resources to help students ages 6+ learn how to write computer programs, use JavaScript, etc.
- Link: <http://code.org/learn>

Careers are Everywhere Activities Workbook (Developed by the Texas Workforce Commission, Department of Labor Market and Career Information) **C** **P**

- Resources: Activities related to 16 career clusters including: Coloring pages, "My First Résumé", interview simulation, work habits self-assessment, and puzzles/games
- Link: http://battellelinks.com/careers/career_pdfs/CareerActivitiesBook.pdf

DiscoverE **C** **P**

- Resources: Engineering resources for students, parents, teachers, and counselors, including: career profiles, videos, activities, and guidance for preparing for college
- Link: <http://www.discovere.org/>

JobLinks Tennessee: K-8 Toolkit
Developed by: Battelle for Kids



Students gain awareness of jobs within their community.



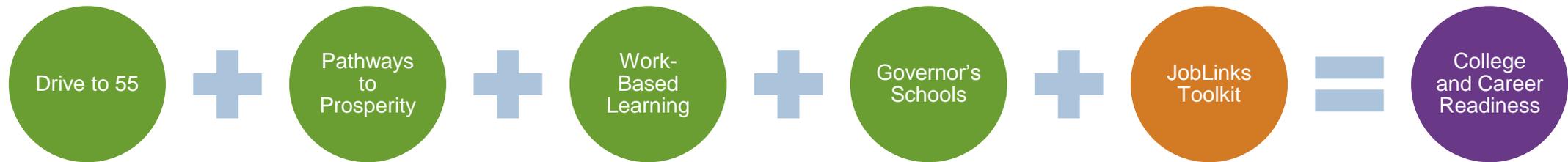
Students broaden their understanding of jobs that exist in their community and beyond, and begin to cultivate their personal interests.



Students explore their career interests, uncover their strengths, and plan for their future.

State Initiatives

The JobLinks Toolkit is a free resource designed to complement existing state programs to provide meaningful career-focused opportunities for K-8 students.



How to Use the Toolkit: Data Chats

Strategies

- Use ACT projections to support data discussions at the student, teacher, school, parent, district, and community levels.
- Align ACT projections to students' career interests, facilitating their career exploration journey with toolkit resources.
- Train district-level leadership teams and school-level staff to ensure effective implementation.

Example

A 7th grade student is considering becoming a veterinarian, but his projected ACT score is a 21. Use data chats to:

- Inform conversations with the student
- Set goals around improving his ACT score or other academic outcomes
- Direct him to jobs related to veterinary medicine

How to Use the Toolkit: Leaders, Teachers, Counselors, Parents

School Leaders

Facilitate collaboration between teacher teams and across grade levels to provide students with consistent exposure to multiple career paths.

Teachers

Supplement instruction with career-focused activities, projects, and assessments to help students uncover their interests.

School Counselors

Implement data chats, create vocational pamphlets, raise awareness about pathways to certification, offer training and support for school staff.

Parents

Help children cultivate their interests and start planning for college and careers.

Thank you!

BattelleForKids.org

 [Facebook.com/Battelleforkidsorg](https://www.facebook.com/Battelleforkidsorg)

 [Twitter.com/Battelleforkids](https://twitter.com/Battelleforkids)

 [YouTube.com/Battelleforkids](https://www.youtube.com/Battelleforkids)

MOVING EDUCATION FORWARD

