



8TH GRADE
**Career
Pathway Fair**

rutherford
works
Workforce Development

The 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair brings together Career & Technical Education (CTE) teachers, business leaders, and high school students to share highlights about the education and job related opportunities for each CTE pathway. Students are asked to select four career pathways to explore, all of which they can study next year at their zoned high school.



The 8th Career Pathway Fairs are made possible through a partnership between Rutherford County Schools and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

3 main goals of each 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair:

- Educate 8th graders in Rutherford County about classes available in high school called Career & Technical Education (CTE) Pathways
- Provide students with information that will help them choose which Pathway to study in high school
- Explore jobs in our community related to CTE Pathways

HOW IT WORKS

Pre Event

1. Middle and high schools set a date and time for the fair.
2. 8th graders complete an online registration and choose 4 pathways in which they think they are most interested. Then, a schedule is made for each student and distributed prior to the event.
3. High school CTE teachers and Workforce Development recruit student and industry speakers for each pathway.



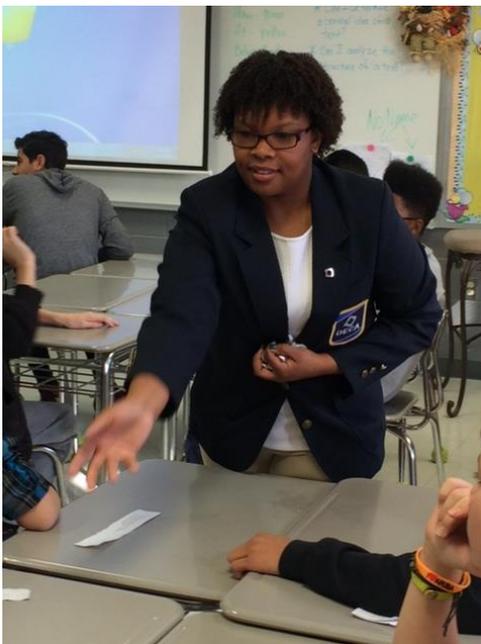
Day of Event

1. CTE teachers, business leaders, and high school students arrive at middle school 45 minutes before event start to set up.
2. 8th grade students assemble in the auditorium for a kickoff by the Rutherford Chamber of Commerce and receive information on top jobs in the area, post-secondary education/Tennessee Promise, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways they can register for in high school. (10-15 minutes)
3. Students visit each of their assigned pathway rotations
 - a. Each presentation lasts 30 minutes (total of 4 presentations = 2 hours)
 - b. 2-3 minute transition time between each presentation (@ 15 minutes)
4. Following the 4 rotations, students return to the auditorium for wrap up, conclusion, and giveaways (15 minutes)



Requirements of the Middle School

1. Commit to a date for the fair.
2. Ensure all 8th graders complete the online registration 3-4 weeks prior to the fair.
3. Assign classrooms to be used for presentations based on the number of students in each pathway session (counts per pathway provided by the Rutherford Chamber).
4. 8th grade teachers remain in their classrooms to help facilitate classroom management.
5. Ask all 8th graders to complete a follow up online evaluation to measure effectiveness of the fair.



Requirements of the High School

1. Commit to the date
2. Provide substitutes for CTE Teachers
3. Assist in finding industry speakers
4. Excuse participating students

Why CTE?

We believe CTE courses not only produce students with competencies before they graduate high school, but also increase student success while in high school. For instance, students enrolled in a CTE course of study had a 99.1% graduation rate last year. Additionally, CTE concentrators obtained a higher ACT score (20.1) than the county average, outperforming the overall student population in academic growth in Rutherford County high schools.