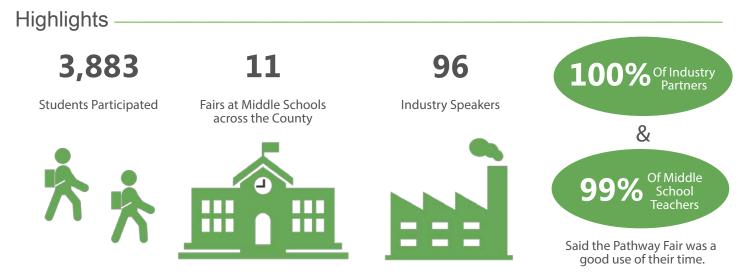
8th Grade Career Pathway Fairs

November – December, 2017 | Middle Schools Across Rutherford County



Summary

Throughout the months of November – December 2017, 3,883 Rutherford County School 8th graders participated in Rutherford Works Career Pathway Fairs across the county. Students at area middle schools learned about Career & Technical Education (CTE) Pathways at their zoned high school, allowing them to make a more informed decision when registering for high school classes.

The 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair brings together CTE (Career & Technical Education) teachers, business leaders, and high school students to share highlights about the education and job related opportunities for each CTE pathway.

A month prior to the event, 8th grade students choose the four pathways at their zoned high school that most interest them. A schedule is made for the student for the day of the pathway fair and students rotate between the four sessions, spending 30 minutes in each.

Within each session, a high school teacher, industry professional, and high school students spend time describing the pathway students may study in high school and pursue as adults.

Feedback



"I've seen different variations of this done in Metro Nashville and in New York...this was by far the best, most organized and most informative experience. Well-done!" – **Middle School Teacher**

"Having a teacher, student, and a career representative helped answer students' questions for the pathway in high school as well as post-secondary. In all the sessions the students were engaged and asked wonderful questions that each speaker answered with a wealth of information!" – **Middle School Teacher**

"As a parent of a high school senior and college sophomore, I wish my children would have had this opportunity. My son struggled in college to choose a major and tried 3 different pathways in high school because he didn't really know what each one was about. I felt this was an incredible opportunity for students." – **Middle School Teacher**

"This program is very positive for students and I think will positively impact their academic journey to finding what career path best suits them." – **Industry Partner**





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Outcomes

- When asked which ONE pathway they were most likely to study in high school, the number one pathway selected by students was the Health Sciences pathway (17.5%), a high-demand, high wage industry in Rutherford County.
- 56.3% of students stated they would like to eventually work in this career pathway when they are an adult.
- When asked how much they enjoyed attending this year's career pathway fair, 60% of 8th graders said "I loved it!"; 37% said "It was just okay"
- 91.4% of middle school teachers surveyed stated the 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair was "very impactful" in helping students determine their course of study in high school.
- 98.6% of middle school teachers surveyed and 100% of industry partners surveyed said the pathway fair was a good use of the students' time
- 100% of industry partners surveyed said they would participate as an industry speaker again next year
- 36% of industry partners surveyed stated they did not know about CTE pathways available to Rutherford County School students before participating in a pathway fair.
- When students were asked which ONE word best describes their experience at the Career Pathway Fair, students stated:



Moving Forward

- 22% of students stated they "Most Definitely!" know what to do during high school and after graduation to work in their desired career pathway; 58% said they "Maybe kind of" know what to do during high school and after graduation to work in their desired career pathway.
 - In 2018, speakers and teachers should be coached to expound on the educational pathway students may take in their desired sector. For instance, teachers could include a diagram of pathway in their presentation and industry speakers can explain their education pathway during introductions.
- An effort should be made to include engaging speakers with hands-on activities in high demand, high wage sectors to increase student interest in pursuing in high school and beyond. This year, 8.3% of students selected Information Technology, 3.4% of students selected Architecture & Construction, and 2% of students selected Manufacturing as the ONE pathway they were most likely to study in high school.*

*Please note: Architecture & Construction and Manufacturing are not available at each middle school, which will lower the overall percentage of students interested in studying in these pathways.











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