



## Whiteford Agricultural School District

6655 Consear Rd, Ottawa, Lake, MI 49267

Scott L. Huard, Superintendent

9/2/2024

Dear 8th-12th Grade Students & Families,

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's Office of Employment and Training has relaunched Pathfinder, a career exploration and planning tool, to help increase the number of residents with high-quality, in-demand degrees and credentials by providing information to students to make informed choices about educational and career options.

Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 380.1293 requires post-graduation informational packets to be provided to pupils in grades 8th-12th by no later than October 1 in electronic or non-electronic form the Post-Graduation Opportunities Informational Packet found on the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Pathfinder page.

Does your student need help in making informed education and career decisions? Help them by checking out the recently updated Pathfinder, Michigan's online career exploration tool that allows users to explore in-demand careers and the degrees or credentials needed to pursue them.

If you've used Pathfinder before – found at [Pathfinder.MiTalent.org](https://Pathfinder.MiTalent.org) – come with your student and check out its recent enhancements; including new filter features when exploring jobs, fields and schools and the ability to choose multiple paths and compare them with each other. For brand new users, visit and have a tailored career exploration experience that will provide your student with a complete training path picture when a career goal is chosen. Get started at [Pathfinder.MiTalent.org](https://Pathfinder.MiTalent.org)!

Sincerely,

Scott L. Huard, ED.S.

Superintendent

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## Michigan's Online Career Exploration Tool

**Welcome to Pathfinder, a free online career exploration tool designed for students, parents and job seekers!**

The goal of Pathfinder is to increase the number of Michigan residents with high-quality, in-demand degrees and credentials. The online tool provides real-time current Michigan labor market information, as well as data on education and training programs, to help you make informed choices about your educational path and career options. You also get the guidance you need with a personalized educational development plan, or roadmap!

### **With Pathfinder, you can:**

- Search for exciting and interesting careers
- Discover schools in Michigan that offer programs of interest
- See detailed job projections, annual openings, growth potential, salaries for Michigan
- View Michigan's top careers

**Create a Personalized Career Roadmap Today!**

**Pathfinder.MiTalent.org**



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT  
& TRAINING

### **Get an Educational Roadmap in 3 Easy Steps**

*Start by visiting **Pathfinder.MiTalent.org**, then complete the following steps:*

- 1. Choose an Occupation**
- 2. Choose a Field of Study**
- 3. Choose a School**

*Completing this process will generate a customized roadmap that can help guide you to your chosen career destination!*

*Completed paths can also be emailed and printed for later viewing.*





Ideally, everyone would discover their true calling early in life and find happiness in their future careers. But it often doesn't work that way. For those who have yet to discover their career passion, follow this list of tips to help you choose and prepare for a career path that's right for you.

## EXPLORATION

- ☐ If you are a student, get to know your guidance counselor. They can connect you to resources, scholarships and deadlines to help ensure the process is not overwhelming.
- ☐ Talk to those you admire (parents, coaches, teachers, colleagues) about what you want to do and how you might go about doing it.
- ☐ Use Pathfinder to research what programs are offered in the fields that interest you most. Check out the results of different levels of training/education to see the benefits of getting more training or schooling.

## PREPARATION

- ☐ While you're in school, challenge yourself in your classes. Ask about Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes available in career fields that interest you.
- ☐ Consider working or volunteering in school or community activities, at workshops or at camps that allow you to explore career interests.
- ☐ Research training institutions or postsecondary schools by going to their websites and talking to current students to discover what they like about going there or what they've learned while attending.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and presentations by college representatives.
- ☐ Check out registered apprenticeships or other work-based learning opportunities in some career fields. These are great opportunities to EARN while you LEARN.

## COLLEGE / TRAINING PROGRAM BOUND

- ☐ If you decide to go to college or attend a training program, visit the locations that interest you most. Some even offer virtual tours!
- ☐ Make sure you know when you need to fill out a financial aid form so you don't miss an opportunity to get support.
- ☐ Find a mentor - particularly someone in the field you're interested in. They can share insights and information with you about what the career is truly like.

Michigan Education & Career Pathfinder is an online career planning tool. It can help you make informed choices about educational and career options. Check it out at [Pathfinder.MiTalent.org](https://Pathfinder.MiTalent.org).



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