



Academic and Career Plans (ACPs)

Virginia Career VIEW's Educator and Parent Guide

How the Virginia Department of Education defines *Academic and Career Plans*:

- ◆ Beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, all schools shall begin development of a personal Academic and Career Plan for each seventh-grade student with completion by the fall of the student's eighth-grade year.
- ◆ The components of the Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the student's program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests.
- ◆ The Academic and Career Plan shall be developed in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Education and signed by the student, student's parent or guardian, and school official(s) designated by the principal.
- ◆ The Plan shall be included in the student's record and shall be reviewed and updated, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades.
- ◆ The school shall have met its obligation for parental involvement if it makes good faith effort to notify the parent or guardian of the responsibility for the development and approval of the Plan.
- ◆ Any personal academic and career plans prescribed by local school boards for students in grades 7 through 12 and in effect as of June 30, 2009, are approved to continue without further action by the board.

Virginia Department of Education. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/academic_career_plan.shtml. Accessed 16 August 2010.

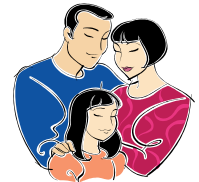
What this means for educators:

- ◆ *Goal:* to implement a Academic and Career Plan for each student in seventh-grade to be used through middle and high school years.
- ◆ Inform both students and parents of Plan expectations.
- ◆ Involve both students and parents in devising a Plan.
- ◆ Provide students and parents with resources to make informed decisions about careers and interests.



What this means for parents:

- ◆ This process involves *you, your child, and your child's counselor.*
- ◆ Knowledge of the Academic and Career Plan will make your involvement more hands-on.
- ◆ If you learn about this process now, you will be better prepared when the Academic and Career Plans are implemented in 2011.
- ◆ Encourage your child to pursue career exploration now. An early start will assure informed decisions for you and your child.





VIRGINIA CAREER VIEW

VITAL INFORMATION FOR EDUCATION AND WORK

For Educators

We Put it All Together.

Virginia Career VIEW offers resources designed specifically for the needs of middle school students, parents, and educators. Visit www.vacareerview.org and explore:

- ◆ **Career Search:** Have students research careers on the Virginia Career VIEW website—information includes: local and national average earnings, tasks and responsibilities, required education, skills, requirements, and related careers.
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *Grades 6-8* then *Career Search*. Research careers by name or career cluster.
- ◆ **School Search:** Have students explore education options after high school using the Career Search portal. This search tool lists school options such as: Career and Technical Education, Associate degree programs, 4-year degree programs, Bachelor's programs, Master's programs and Doctoral programs.
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *Grades 6-8* then *School Search*. Research schools by geographic location or degree level.
- ◆ **Career Puzzles and Activities:** Use these *updated* activities to have students explore their skills, future, and career interests. Resources include word puzzles, self-assessments, and career exploration activities. **Over 30 activities!**
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *Grades 6-8* then *Career Puzzles and Activities*. Choose: [I've Got Skills](#), [My Future](#), or [Career Explorer](#).
- ◆ **ACP Toolkit:** Use these resources to help students explore careers and think about their future. Have students answer questions, determine their best skills, and devise a plan for high school.
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *Professionals* then *Toolkits*.
- ◆ **Who R U?:** Have students take this career assessment to determine their interests!
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *Grades 6-8* then *Who R U?*
- ◆ **Create a Folder:** Have students save information to their own account by creating a folder. Add worksheets and activities to the folder.
 - ◆ To use: Go to www.vacareerview.org, click on *My Folder*, then enter the required information.

*Note: Federal law requires children to be at least 13 years old to share personal information.

