

WESTERN BUILT



Building Futures, Creating Hope, Changing Lives

What is Western BUILT? Western Built is our “marketing” program designed to create a pathway for our students to successfully transition from high school to career.

Why Western BUILT? The traditional tracks of college prep and “general” are no longer viable pathways. For many years the college prep track was a very simple pathway - take college prep courses in high school, perform well, go to college and get a degree, get a job that pays better than one without a college degree. The “general” track was also pretty simple - take non college prep courses, graduate, go to work in a local industry (that often didn’t pay competitively and had no fringe benefits), or join a union hall with good pay and benefits (but often resulted in long drives and even relocation from our community)

We realize that system is archaic and never was conducive to creating a pathway that prepared our kids for something different. Economically, our region is in a transition just like the rest of the country. The myth of no bachelors = no future is over. The future is in skilled labor. The future of our community lies in keeping our best people in our community. That starts by training our students to compete for the best jobs in our region. For this to work it requires a mindset shift in both our school and community.

We had a business partners meeting last April with over 80 people representing nearly every segment of industry in our region. We explained our vision for our school and community and asked our prospective partners one important question: What do you need from us as a school district that will ensure a productive partnership for both your business, for our students and for our community? Here’s what our partners want/need in workers: Everyone needs workers who can

1. Pass a drug test
2. Take instruction/direction
3. Work with others
4. Be focused on the task (stay off phones)

How does Western BUILT work? It’s simple - create an educational program that shapes the minds of both our students and our adults to do exactly what our partners have asked us to do.

We have revamped our instructional program in grades 7-12 and it's centered around Western BUILT. Our new structure is designed to ensure that every student who graduates has had the opportunity to be part of the program regardless of their pathway and to ensure that every student who is not on a solid college prep track is required to take the Western Built pathway coursework. Our high school schedule has been a traditional schedule with few opportunities for students to explore potential careers and fields of study. We've used the traditional "everyone has to have a place to go every period" model which typically led to students being placed in general electives that checked a box but didn't give them the opportunities to really get in the weeds and work through potential interests. Western BUILT is designed to create a potentially unique pathway and subsequent "resume" for graduates based on their interests and abilities rather than what we think they need.

EVERY STUDENT WILL

- Complete the middle school career discovery course in 7th grade
- Complete the high school career discovery course in 9th grade
- Complete the Future Plan Assessment (GRIT) at the end of 9th grade
- Receive GRIT coaching from a certified coach during 10th grade
- Complete the Future Plans Soft Skills courses and take certification test during 10th grade
- Choose electives based on the results of their Future Plans Assessment

NON-COLLEGE PREP (Career Discovery Pathway) STUDENTS WILL

- Take coursework that is aligned with either a chosen field, field of interest, or for general workforce preparation (career planning courses). We will not offer general electives (current events, etc.)
- Take a WorkKeys preparation course at their 4th required math and take the WorkKeys assessment in the spring of their senior year
- Complete either an industry credential or a pre-apprenticeship program

We have partnered with the East Central Ohio ESC to start a pre-apprenticeship program. Students can choose from the following fields and students enrolled in the program will graduate with a pre-apprenticeship completion certificate in one of these fields

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Information Technology
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Architecture and Construction
- Education
- Health Science
- Manufacturing

Additionally, we have implemented career planning courses into our curriculum. Doug Williams teaches work skills courses to students at all grade levels. When we are at full implementation EVERY student who isn't enrolled in College Credit Plus classes will be required to complete at least one semester of work skills coursework.

How does a student qualify to be Western BUILT? Western BUILT students MUST agree to the following conditions and meet the following guidelines

- Pass an initial drug test and agree to random follow up tests
- Release academic records to prospective employers
- Release attendance records to prospective employers
- Release disciplinary records to prospective employers
- Submit a resume with all coursework including credentials and seals earned
- Complete at least one semester of a work skills course from Mr. Williams

What does Western BUILT look like at full implementation?

- EVERY STUDENT entering 10 grade having taken a middle school career discovery course, a high school career discovery course, the YouScience assessment, and the Future Plans Assessment
- EVERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT either enrolled in College Credit Plus courses OR the Career Discovery Pathway or a combination of the two
- EVERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT taking elective courses that are either aligned with their chosen field of study, an exploratory career course, or a workforce preparation course
- EVERY 10TH GRADER either attending the Career Tech Center with a clearly defined plan, completing the College Credit Plus pathway, or the Career Discovery pathway (which can also include CTC students who qualify for Western Built)
- EVERY NON-CCP 11TH GRADER will have completed at least one semester of work skills, enrolled in career focused electives, and either part of a pre-apprenticeship program or a recognized industry credential program.
- EVERY NON-CCP 12TH GRADER will be working OUTSIDE of the high school building either as part of an apprenticeship program or for a company or individual in their CHOSEN career field for at least half of the school day
- EVERY NON-CCP 12TH GRADER will have the basic qualifications for entrance into any union hall or apprenticeship program (with the WorkKeys Assessment completed)
- BUSINESSES IN OUR REGION come to Western High School FIRST when they need to fill relevant positions within their companies



We have just completed the **Western Career Exploration and Development Center**. This is a brand new building has three primary functions:

1. to provide a remote work center for anyone in our area with the ability or need to work remotely (with after school hours and weekend access)
2. to provide a quiet, safe space for anyone who is currently enrolled in a career training program or pursuing higher education (online college or completing coursework, adult career tech, etc.) or working to complete their high school diplomas, adult diplomas, or GED with after hours and weekend access (with assistance for our adults from partnering agencies like Aspire and GRIT).
3. to give our high school students a place to complete their College Credit Plus (CCP) courses on our campus complete with high speed internet, after hours and weekend access, and the independence of a student commuting to a regional campus

This center is the product of our partnership with GRIT (Growing Rural Independence Together) and is designed to reduce barriers for both our students and adults. This joint venture solves transportation problems, childcare problems, and lack of access to free, high speed internet in our community.

Want to partner with Western High School or learn more about Western BUILT?

You can contact or follow Western Local Schools in the following ways:

- www.westernlocalschools.com
- <https://www.westernlocalschools.com/page/western-career-exploration-and-development-center>
- Western Pike Local School Facebook page
- Brock Brewster, Superintendent: brock.brewster@westernlocalschools.com or (740) 222 8311

We look forward to partnering with each of you or talking more in depth with you about the benefits of investing in both students and adults in the Western Local School District.