

## Kevin Davis

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**To:** Kent Reed  
**Subject:** RE: Career Domain: Preparing Students for the 21st Century

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**From:** Kent Reed [mailto:kreed@ksde.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 10:03 AM  
**Subject:** Career Domain: Preparing Students for the 21st Century  
**Importance:** High

School counselors have always been a strong resource for students, this fact is even more important as we prepare our students for the challenges of work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The **State Board of Education** recognized this when they adopted several actions that addressed the **integration and alignment** of CTE with our academic standards last year. In the career clusters model (<http://www3.ksde.org/sfp/kscareerclusters/index.htm>), counselors will become even more important. They will take on an even larger role in guiding students to lifelong career success.

The career clusters concept help learners gain relevancy for learning, broaden their options and prepare them for the ever changing demand of a global economy. Career clusters are an adaptable, flexible framework for ensuring that education meets the needs of today's and tomorrow's economy.

**Every student should have a career plan and meet with a counselor, teacher advisor or faculty advisor to review his/her plan on an on-going basis.** These Personal Career Plans of Study map out the courses and extracurricular activities that will help students learn important skills for his/her career interests. The plans focus less on merely graduating from high school but more on laying the foundations for career success. The plans are used to help a student manage how his/she explores his/her career options. Throughout the process and with guidance from the counselor, parents and mentor(s), the student continues to revise the plan as he/she develops new career goals and interests. **After all, the Personal Career Plan of Study is a vehicle for career discovery intended to demonstrate that career development is a lifelong process, not a destination.**

- Career Clusters are groupings of occupations and industries
- These groupings are used as an organizing tool for:
  - Curriculum Design
  - Instructional + Guidance Model
  - Seamless Transition
  - Basis for course selection, both academic and career tech/degree major
  - Places validity on what a student needs to know and be able to do to be successful in postsecondary education and careers
  - Serves as a roadmap for students, parents and teachers to plan for careers
- Programs of Study are:
  - A sequenced listing of courses, both academic and CTE/degree major, that connects student's high school and postsecondary educational experiences
  - A set of course descriptions for the CTE/degree major courses based on knowledge and skill statements
- **Plans of Study are:**
  - Not only products, but processes as well

- A concentrated effort to explore career opportunities and types of training and aptitudes necessary for any selected career path
- Comprised of components that will empower insightful and purposeful decision making
- A comprehensive 6 year (grades 8-14) educational plan that is a living document, adaptable to fit the ever changing landscape that students may traverse

We have created a **Personal Plans of Study Toolkit** that is located on the counseling page at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1799>. If you would prefer an e-mailed copy just let me know, for some of you your server filters won't allow attachments so the on-line option may be best.

You will also notice a "Career Interest Inventory" link that includes the Kansas Career Pipeline. We encourage schools to utilize any one of these tools (or something similar) in helping students explore their career potentials.

**Please let us know if we can be of any further help and thank you for all that you do for Kansas kids!!**

Kent

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