



# YOUTH + CAREGIVERS

## Career-Connected Learning

### *Investing in Detroit's Future Talent*

As the future of work changes rapidly, it is reshaping the skills that young people need in order to meaningfully participate in the labor market and improve their long-term economic outcomes. In Detroit, there are many efforts currently underway—in schools and through youth organizations, employers, and other partners—with the goal of building the capacity of young people and preparing them for life after high school.

But while there is meaningful progress being made, young people still need early exposure, clear pathways into a wide range of industries, and consistent support to navigate their academic and early career journeys. Career-connected learning is central to bridging the gap between education and the workforce and ensuring that young people have real choices when it comes to their career pathways.

“Career-Connected Learning: Investing in Detroit’s Future Talent” examines how Detroit’s education, youth development, and workforce systems are aligned to connect young people to opportunity. By centering youth voice, the report explores bright spots, barriers, and opportunities across three core components of career-connected learning: career awareness and exploration, career guidance, and work-based learning.



*Parent and family involvement and support helps young people succeed long-term.*

*Career stability, satisfaction, and success strongly influence adult well-being.*

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ① Many youth programs in the city offer career exploration activities, career guidance, and opportunities to connect with employers.
- ② There are many pathways into high-growth occupations, like CTE, dual enrollment, early-middle college, and apprenticeships.
- ③ Certifications and additional education/experience beyond high school allow students to progress along a career ladder.
- ④ The Skilled Trades and Health pathways have a high number of job openings in the region that are well-paying, followed by Business, Marketing, and Finance and Human Services. These are all viable and rewarding career pathways.
- ⑤ Employers are looking for young people who display curiosity and adaptability, and those who have strong foundational and transferable skills, including digital literacy.

### WHERE YOU CAN START

1. Seek out career interest assessments even outside of school time.
2. Explore connections between your passions and possible career paths.
3. Seek advice from people in the workforce about their jobs and the steps they took to get there.
4. Be proactive about finding the right high school based on the opportunities and experiences they offer.
5. Talk to your school counselors about alternative programs and pathways related to your interests.
6. Learn about skills, credentials, and college programs that support entry into your career pathway of interest.
7. Look for opportunities to intern or volunteer within your area of interest.
8. Have conversations with counselors and mentors around work priorities, career values, and practical challenges.
9. Start learning career-relevant skills through free online tutorials and resources.
10. Talk to parents and family about jobs, income, employment benefits, and monthly expenses.

#### **Start your career exploration here:**

Michigan Career Pathfinder: <https://pathfinder.mitalent.org>

My Next Move: <https://www.mynextmove.org>

BigFuture: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>

CareerOneStop: <https://www.careeronestop.org>

Roadtrip Nation: <https://roadtripnation.com>