

# EXPLORING CAREERS

GRADES 5-9

## From Middle School Dreams to Lifelong Success: Early Career Discovery Matters

Middle schoolers and young teens are thinking about their futures and are eager to prepare for them. This early adolescent time is when dreams take shape — yet it's also when school can begin to feel less relevant to many students.



87%

of middle school students are interested in ways to match their specific skills and interests with potential careers.<sup>1</sup>

41%

report picking the right career as a source of stress.<sup>1</sup>

The **Exploring Careers** program provides educators with a comprehensive framework to support early career exploration and foster student engagement while developing the skills and entrepreneurial mindset needed for success in the innovation economy.



With Exploring Careers, students in grades 5-9 will have opportunities to:

- Discover their interests, skills, and personal strengths, and understand how they align with potential careers.
- Acquire essential career skills such as decision making, critical thinking, goal setting, communication, and collaboration.
- Develop financial literacy.

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*Showing students a route to their dreams in early adolescence — a time when many begin to lose interest in school — can also boost middle schoolers' motivation.”*

~ The Hechinger Report

<sup>1</sup>American Student Assistance. Survey of 2,393 middle and high school students in the United States, December 2018.

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## Empowering Students Through Real-World, Personalized Career Exploration

With Exploring Careers, students engage in **experiential, hands-on learning** that helps them develop an **entrepreneurial mindset**, paving the way for their **future success**.

Through engaging lessons and immersive labs, students:

Explore Career Opportunities



Investigate Interests, Skills, and Strengths



Develop a Career Plan



Create a Budget & Savings Plan



Craft a Superhero Persona



Design a Personal Lifestyle Brand



### Career Showcase

Students practice the art of pitching their prospective selves



“I liked [the activities] because it made me realize that I’d like certain career fields I thought I wouldn’t.”

~ Exploring Careers Student,  
Dallas ISD

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### Modular, Flexible Lessons to Meet Diverse Classroom Needs

- 40-50 hours of content that can be integrated in a variety of core content classes or as a stand-alone course
- 25 modular lessons with labs to support deeper learning
- 45- to 90-minute lessons
- Adaptable for both in-school or out-of-school programs

Ready to launch the next generation of diverse entrepreneurs and leaders?

Email: [getstarted@nfte.com](mailto:getstarted@nfte.com)