

Lesson Title: Education: Looking Beyond the Classroom

Career Cluster: Education and Training

EKS: Teamwork and Critical Thinking

Career Concepts: Career Research, People as Source and Postsecondary Options

Summary: Students will learn about the Education and Training career cluster by brainstorming all the different people who work in the various aspects of education and training. They will use teamwork and critical thinking to gather information to create a web/graphic organizer to reflect a more effective work environment.

Course Objectives:

- 1.3 Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between coursework, school activities, community activities, and career clusters.
- 2.2 Students will be able to define, identify, and demonstrate the Essential Knowledge and Skills.
- 4.2 Students will be able to participate in a career exploration activity involving a professional contact.
- 5.3 Students will be able to talk to people to access career resources.
- 6.2 Students will be able to identify postsecondary options in relationship to the career clusters.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will

- Learn about the variety of careers in the education and training cluster.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask an education career professional.
- Work as a team to design a new school and make a presentation to the class.
- Take notes from a presentation on education and training careers.

Time: Four class periods

Required Materials: “Sample Interview Topics/Questions” activity sheet, access to www.nebraskacareerconnections.org

Guest presenters:

Education cluster professional(s)

Examples: District Office Staff, Principal, Teacher, Administrative Office Professional, Nurse, Counselor, Media Specialist, Post-Secondary Faculty or Staff Person, Human Resources Trainer, College or Technical School Instructor

Content and Teaching Strategies:

Anticipatory Set

1. Ask students to think about their middle school. What types of people does it take to run a middle school? What are some of the different education/training careers in the middle school? What are some training and education careers outside of school? Write the list of careers the students come up with on the board. If there are gaps, make sure to mention other possibilities such as: counselors, speech pathologists, mental health specialists, principals, etc.

2. Ask students if they think there are different careers needed to work in a high school compared to a middle school? What about at a college or institution of higher education? Add to the list on the board of other education/training careers at the high school and colleges. These could include things such as: career counselors, day care workers, chancellors, student support services – admissions & financial aid, social workers, etc.
3. Show the students the Education and Training Career Cluster from www.nebraskacareerconnections.org. Briefly discuss the pathways of Administration and Administrative Support, Professional Support Services, and Teaching and Training. Using the list on the board, discuss with the students which career pathway each career falls in.



Lesson Components

1. Tell the students that they will be divided into small groups and will be responsible for designing a new school. At the end of the lesson they will be presenting their school information to the class in a creative format of their choosing. Their first task will be to determine the type of school (day care, preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, college). Students should take into consideration their ability to gather information about the type of school they will develop prior to beginning. Students will be asked to do interviews with education personnel as part of the project. Therefore, if there is not a college in your area, students may want to choose a local school, preschool, or daycare. Encourage groups to have different school types if possible.



2. In small groups, students should brainstorm on the following information in their student notebooks. They should come to a consensus and designate a recorder to hand in their final decisions.
 - Name and location of the school
 - Type of school – elementary, high school, etc.
 - Determine the size of the school including the number of classrooms for each grade level.
 - Make a list of the education/training personnel you will need to open the new school. For instance, teachers, administration staff, counselors, etc. Ask the students to be as complete as possible when coming up with their list. Students will add to this information after small group interviews with classroom presenters.



3. Explain to the students the purpose of gaining career information through people as a source. Discuss what information professionals can share with students to help them make informed career decisions.
4. Arrange a visit from different educators to come into the classroom to talk to students. If possible, there should be a variety of educators, such as a teacher, administrator, counselor, speech pathologist, etc. There should be at least one educator per group (if you have four groups, you should have four educators). Students will divide up into their work groups and put together a list of questions for the educators prior to their classroom visit. The interview questions should include the following topic areas, but are not limited to (see Sample Interview Topics/Questions Handout):

- Types of careers available within an education related setting
- The job environment in an education related setting
- The types of working conditions experienced in an education related setting
- The education necessary for the careers available
- The salary range for careers available

After the students have determined their interview questions, provide feedback to the groups. Create a class list of interview questions on the board that will be asked of all educators. Ask one person in each group to copy the questions down. This list should also be given to the presenters prior to coming into the classroom.

5. Students should be divided into their appropriate work groups. When the educators arrive for their presentations, one person should sit with each group. Group members will ask the questions from the interview sheet and record the answers to the questions. Group members should divide up the questions and take turns asking questions as well as recording the answers. Allow enough time during the class for all educators to visit each group. Students may want to determine which questions off their interview sheet to ask each educator since they will most likely not have enough time to ask every question.
6. Ask students to write thank you notes to the presenters. Tell the students to include one thing they learned not already known to them, in their thank you letter. If the educators are in the building, ask one of the students to personally deliver the thank you notes.
7. Students should use the interview questions to add information to their school design. Encourage students to be as specific as possible when providing information on career duties and skills, working conditions, earnings, and education/training. Students should provide this information for each type of career listed in their web/graphic organizer.
8. Students should be encouraged to use www.nebraskacareerconnections.org to gather more information on the education and training career cluster by watching the videos.



Lesson Closure

1. Students should present their school design to the class after gathering all the necessary information. Students should be told to spend the majority of their presentation time on the education and training careers needed to run their school/institution. Students should give an example of how the educator they interviewed influenced their school design.
2. Students listening should write down at least three facts from each presentation. Students should write facts detailing something new they learned about the education, training career cluster and postsecondary training.
3. After the presentation students should choose from one of the following prompts (or others you come up with) to write in their student notebook:
 - I would like to work in the education and training career cluster because.....
 - I would not like to work in the education and training career cluster because.....
 - One interesting thing I found out about the education and training career cluster that I didn't know before was.....



- The education and training career cluster would be interesting because.....

Essential Knowledge and Skills Connection

The components of this lesson emphasize **teamwork and critical thinking**. Choose one of the following activities to help students connect the lesson with their own development of EKS.

- Write a journal entry, reflecting on one of the EKS used in this lesson. Students could choose a strength or weakness they wish to improve or enhance
- Graphic organizer (see Supporting Document-Teacher Resources) to emphasize the EKS used in this lesson connected to home, school and work.
- Have students use the model to identify EKS used during the activity.

Sample Interview Topics & Questions

Name: _____

Career Description

- What duties do people in the career have?
- What skills do people in this career have?

Working Conditions

- What type of environment does a person in this career work in?
- What hours are you expected to work? Are they flexible?

Earnings

- What would be the starting salary for a person in this career?
- Are there opportunities to increase the salary?
- What are some of the benefits associated with this career?

Education

- What education and training do you need to enter this career?
- What other qualifications are good to have?
- Which college and university programs are related to this career?
- Does this career require any special licensing or certification?

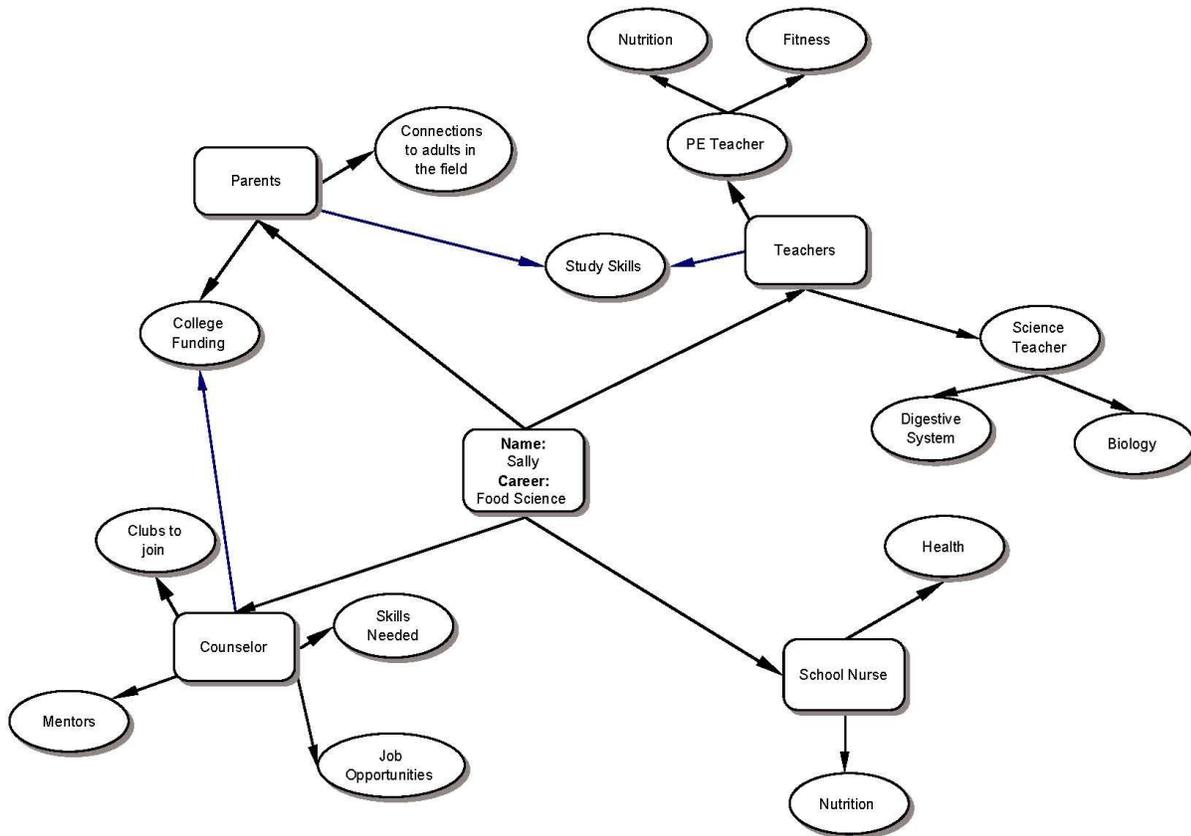
Career Path

- What are some suggested middle school or high school courses or subjects?
- What are some organizations or activities that would benefit a person interested in this career?
- What are some related careers?

Other

- What is the most difficult part of getting into this career?
- What is your favorite part of this career?
- What is your least favorite part of this career?
- What does it take to succeed in this career?

Students will create a web to show all of the people available to help them develop the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in their careers.



Sample Graphic Organizer for **Education - Looking Beyond the Classroom**