

## Key Features of Career Academies

Small Learning Community	College-Prep Curriculum with a Career Theme	Partnerships with Employers, Community, and Higher Education
<p>Several academy-only classes in grades 9-12, 10-12, or 11-12</p> <p>Self-selected cross-disciplinary team of teacher-managers, with a lead teacher/coordinator</p> <p>Voluntary enrollment, cross-section of students; size limited to maintain personalization</p> <p>A family-like atmosphere with a motivating, supportive, disciplined instructional tone</p> <p>When possible, academy classes blocked back-to-back in the daily schedule</p> <p>Support from district and school administrators and counselors</p> <p>Students given opportunity to engage in full range of non-academy courses, electives, and other school activities</p>	<p>Several academic courses per year that meet high school graduation and college entrance requirements</p> <p>One or more courses per year in a broadly defined career field that lets students explore a full range of career options</p> <p>Academic classes that illustrate applications in the career field</p> <p>Common planning time for teachers to allow curricular integration</p> <p>Projects that bring together skills across academic and career classes, possibly a school-based enterprise</p> <p>Counseling to ensure post secondary plan which may include college, work, or both</p> <p>Articulation with postsecondary curriculum</p>	<p>Locally selected career field with a cadre of employer partners</p> <p>Steering Committee that governs program operation</p> <p>Parental involvement in students' decision to enroll, and in various program activities</p> <p>Business representatives who provide role models, show students career options and paths</p> <p>Field trips/job shadowing to illustrate work environments</p> <p>Mentors, employee volunteers that serve as career-related "big brothers and sisters"</p> <p>Workplace experiences (paid or unpaid internships, community service) in the last year or two</p> <p>Postsecondary institution articulation, concurrent enrollment</p>