



Career pathways are designed to assist people in earning meaningful credentials and obtaining jobs. Career pathways function by aligning the delivery of education, training, and support services provided by public agencies. A career pathway includes multiple entry and exit points, allowing an individual to stop in and out of education and work at any point within the pathway.

Scope

The CEDS common data vocabulary supports the collection and use of information about career pathways programs. Version 5 of CEDS introduced two new elements to capture the starting and ending dates of individuals participating in state-recognized career pathways programs. Since career pathways approaches incorporate multiple entry and exit points, it is important to understand when students start and end their participation in these programs.

Version 5 of CEDS also updated an existing career pathways element to include all potential career pathways participants (CEDS Version 4 referred specifically to adult education students). CEDS users may now identify individuals participating in an approved state career pathways program, regardless of the level (i.e., secondary, postsecondary, or adult) or type of program (e.g., adult education, career and technical training, or workforce training), in which instruction is offered.

Version 5 of CEDS added two new career pathways elements:

Element Name	Definition
Career Pathways Program Participation Start Date	The year, month, and day on which the person began to participate in a career pathway program.
Career Pathways Program Participation Exit Date	The year, month, and day on which the person ceased to participate in a career pathway program.

The following element was already defined in CEDS and was updated for Version 5:

Element Name	Definition	Option Set
Career Pathways Program Participation Indicator	An indication of an individual who is participating in a program that is a component of or leads to a specific or recognized career pathway, as defined by the state.	Yes/No

CEDS CONNECT

The elements relating directly to career pathways programs, in addition to many other CEDS elements, can be used to support data-driven decisions about career pathways programs and participants. Elements can address questions that may arise about the outcomes of career pathways participation, such as “What are the median quarterly earnings of career pathway leavers who are employed in the seventh calendar quarter after leaving the career pathway?” or “What

is the percent of career pathway leavers who are employed in the second or third calendar quarter after leaving the career pathway (i.e., becoming a career pathway leaver)?”

CEDS CONNECT is a free online resource that maps CEDS data elements to specific uses or questions. New connections may be developed from time to time, so please visit the website at <https://ceds.ed.gov/connect.aspx>.