



# How Career-Connected Learning Solves Today's Top Educational Challenges

## Top Challenges

### 1 CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

**26% of public school students** were considered chronically absent during the 2023-2024 school year, up from the pre-pandemic rate of around **15%**.<sup>1</sup>

### 2 LOW ENGAGEMENT

Traditional curriculum often relies on rote memorization, independent work, and a focus on abstract ideas, which leads to a **lack of engagement**.

### 3 FORCED SILOS

Students are often siloed into one of two tracks: **preparing for college** or **preparing to enter the workforce** directly after high school.

The former group misses out on vital career-related education and the latter are alienated from seeing themselves as college graduates.

### 4 PREPAREDNESS GAPS

**89% of high school teachers** think their seniors are “ready” for college, but only **26% of post-secondary faculty** agree.

Worse yet, **96% of collegiate academic officers** believe their graduates have the necessary skills to succeed in the business world, but only **11% of employers** agree.<sup>2</sup>

## Top Solutions

### 1 USE A CAREER-CONNECTED CURRICULUM

Engage students in real-life scenarios and give them specific career and academic pathways to strive toward.

Pathway2Careers provides a full Career Exploration Curriculum, which exposes students to various career options. Students learn about these careers through ongoing exploration, rather than a one-time discussion relegated to a guidance counselor.

### 3 KEEP STUDENTS ON THE SAME PATH TOGETHER

Career-connected learning integrates tangible career skills into everyday curriculum, including math, so students can see why they are learning what they’re learning, and how it applies to the real-world skills they’ll need.

Pathway2Careers offers several real-world, relevant, standards-based career-connected curriculums for grades 9-12.

### 2 INTEGRATE CAREER EDUCATION INTO TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC LEARNING

Set all students up to find and succeed within their favored paths – while being exposed to different paths.

P2C has developed a career-connected 9-12 curriculum that directly links academic concepts to specific career paths, ensuring students never have to question the practicality or relevance of what they’re learning in school.

### 4 SHOWCASE THE RELEVANCY OF MATH IN REAL-TIME

Math is frequently perceived as an abstract, disconnected subject, with very little relevance to most careers. But P2C Math demonstrates real-world applications of mathematical concepts in fields that students can envision themselves in.

**When education becomes relevant to their lives, learners feel empowered to fully engage with the material. This engagement leads the way for improved attendance and, ultimately, improved academic performance and better overall outcomes for students in the classroom and beyond.**

Visit [p2c.org](https://p2c.org) to discover how **Pathway2Careers** is pioneering a shift towards a career-connected curriculum – with our **P2C Math curriculum, Career Exploration curriculum, Financial Literacy curriculum, Early College High School coaching and consulting**, and more.

## The Results

### 1 EXPOSURE TO ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

By being in the same classes as their college-bound peers, students who plan to begin their careers immediately after high school graduation are exposed to career and educational opportunities they may not have known existed for them.

### 2 INSIGHT INTO CAREER PATHWAYS

Even the most academically minded students may not know exactly what they want to do with their lives, and being able to explore different careers and pathways to get to those careers that they may not have known about is invaluable.

### 3 INCREASED FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

All students are given the same opportunity to reach the same academic standards while creating excitement for their future careers. Equity post-graduation becomes a greater possibility when education in school becomes more equitable.

### 4 BOOSTED PURPOSE AND MOTIVATION

Research shows that when students experience purpose in their learning, there is an increase in motivation to learn, persist, complete classroom projects, and retain new information.

<sup>1</sup>NYTimes, “Why School Absences Have ‘Exploded’ Almost Everywhere,” 3/29/24

<sup>2</sup>American Higher Education Alliance, The Distinct Connection Between Higher Education And Workforce Readiness. July 24, 2020