

Canada: Future Ready Learning K-12

Enabling career thinking early, and ensuring that career education is made available from the whole school community.

[Future Ready Learning K-12](#) is the career education strategy of the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), an agency of Canada's New Brunswick province. The strategy's goal is to systemically advance career education from early years provision (or kindergarten with children aged 4-5) through to grade 12 (age 17-18) across the province. The strategy promotes evidence-based career development practices designed to be easily integrated into all grades and subjects. The initiative was developed in 2019, following an extensive literature review, along with K-12 focus group consultations.

Future Ready Learning K-12 is a whole school approach to career learning. The strategy recognises that every adult is a potential career influencer and aims to equip every staff member in the school setting - including administrators, guidance counsellors, and all teachers of different grades and subjects - with the ability to engage with students and their career thinking within their usual working days. Recognizing that teaching career development is usually absent in standard teacher training curricula, the strategy first provides educators with foundational learning and understanding in career education. To do so, the strategy includes [a series of online asynchronous educator modules](#) that walk teachers through various instructional strategies and ideas for engaging career learning. These modules include training on social emotional learning, experiential learning, making use of labour market information learning, financial wellness learning, and an online career planning tool for young people (myBlueprint).

Future Ready Learning K-12 acknowledges that its most marginalized students are more vulnerable to falling behind in career development. So there is a focus on levelling the playing field and ensuring that everyone has equitable access to the skills and knowledge they need for success. By way of example, the strategy includes an online course for educators (['Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms'](#)) designed to increase teacher proficiency in working with migrants and English Language Learners.

In addition to resources for educators, Future Ready Learning also provides students from grade 4-12 (ages 9-17) with [myBlueprint](#). This online career planning tool is available in English and French, and contains features that help students prepare for aspects of career development, such as résumé development, cover letter development, and labour market information. The platform is a cross-curricular tool and is connected to the New Brunswick school curriculum. It serves as a one-stop career education resource for students and also contains a digital portfolio function, so students can easily share evidence of their learning with post-secondary institutions and employers. Additionally, once students have a myBlueprint account, they can keep it for life as long as they continue to log in once every 18 months.

To ensure that all students have the opportunity to build career development skills, every student engages in a [Personal Development and Career Planning](#) course in grade 9 or 10 (ages 14-15). This course, which covers career planning essentials such as CV development and interview skills, is a graduation requirement for all students in New Brunswick.

While working systemically to have all educators, grades, and subjects incorporate career development into their practice, New Brunswick also offers optional courses that allow students to take a deeper dive into career development. One example of this is the Co-Op course (Cooperative Education 120) for grades 11-12 (ages 16-17). In this course, students are matched with school-

partnered employers for a workplace experiential learning opportunity. For matching purposes, a structured interview is conducted between the course teacher and each student prior to the start of the course. The course consists of three components: pre-placement planning, the out-of-school work placement itself, and reflection on the placement. In the pre-placement component, students receive instruction on résumé writing, interview skills, information related to health and safety, employer and employee rights and responsibilities, and school and workplace expectations. Students are then required to spend at least 125 hours in their assigned work placement. In the placement reflection, which is held at various times throughout and after the placement, students describe and analyse their out-of-school experiences, in order to gain a greater understanding of work.

To find out more, please visit:

www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/k12/content/future-ready-learning.html.