

## ***United States: World of Work***

*Assisting young people to analyse their individual strengths and interests through engagement with the working world in order to help students develop better understanding of career options and how they can be achieved.*

Launched in 2017, World of Work (WoW) is designed to be a comprehensive curriculum programme which aims at exposing young people to career education and career options continuously throughout their K-12 education (ages 5-17). The programme was created by the Cajon Valley Union School District, a school district operating 27 public schools, in El Cajon, California – a large suburb of San Diego near the US-Mexico border.

Central to the World of Work approach is RIASEC - a set of six occupational themes (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional) designed to help learners discover careers related to their unique strengths, interests and personality traits. Beginning at kindergarten (age 5), students in World of Work participate in self-awareness lessons and activities, to help identify where they fit within the RIASEC framework. After choosing a theme that they identify with, students then explore career pathways in their theme through in-class activities to help spark initial career interests. Year after year, these in-class activities evolve to further expose students to more and more occupations.

World of Work's implementation framework comprises of four levels:

- Exploration,
- Simulation,
- Meet a Pro, and
- Practice.

At the Exploration level, students are helped to explore the breadth of careers and industries. Next, in Simulation level, they get to simulate a specific career of their interest through in-class activities. Thereafter, students take part in 'Meet a Pro Chats', which are classroom field trips to local businesses or virtual online tours where students can see and meet with industry professionals in their real-life work settings.

After completing the first 3 levels of the program, students are then able to have a 'practice' experience. The goal of the 'practice' is to apply everything that the students learned from the first three levels of the programme, and leave the classroom in order to apply it. This can take shape in the form of a community service project in an area of interest, an internship, or for ages 14-17, even a part-time job.

To find out more, please visit [worldofwork.net](http://worldofwork.net).