



October 21, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Cambridge Public Schools Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy.

This new policy is being presented for a second reading.

Description: This new policy is being presented in order to be in alignment with recent revisions to state regulations governing career and technical education programs and guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Supporting Data: Cambridge Public Schools Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

David Murphy
Superintendent of Schools

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL PATHWAY EXPLORATION POLICY**

The Cambridge Public Schools is committed to providing its upper school (middle school) students with the opportunity to explore and become aware of secondary school options, including career and technical education schools and programs, and how these options are connected to a student's secondary and postsecondary academic and career planning.

In accordance with this commitment, the Cambridge Public Schools will collaborate with the Rindge School of Arts (RSTA) located within Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), which is its Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and the upper schools within the Cambridge Public Schools as well as with CTE regional, agricultural, and other public high schools to inform students about such opportunities.

The Cambridge Public Schools utilizes Career Connected Learning to engage all students PK-12, including without limitation upper school students, in developing personal interests and skills as they relate to future career and educational planning. Through intentional collaboration between schools, colleges, workforce development agencies, industry, and community partners, the Cambridge Public Schools aims to build pathways for students to rewarding careers and lifelong success. The objectives of Career Connected Learning are for students to graduate ready for their next steps in life and to develop and gain a sense of self, belonging, future vision, goals, interests and values; the ability to communicate, think critically and make informed decisions; have skills in academic and career planning, financial literacy and employability; and experiences with career exploration, civic engagement and practical coursework and activities.

Utilizing the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's MyCAP (My Career and Academic Plan) process, the Cambridge Public Schools aims to create, share, and model a vision for student success that is relevant to students' lives and futures. The goal of Career Connected Learning in the Cambridge Public Schools is to support student development and understanding of interests and skills as they relate to future career planning, identify ways to introduce and teach employability success skills at various grade levels, and to provide common language around career and academic planning. Exploration and awareness of secondary school options at CRLS, including CTE programming through RSTA, will be provided to upper school students through multiple approaches. These approaches, include but are not limited to, Upper School Guidance Counselors meeting with students both individually and in small groups to build academic, social emotional, and future thinking skills; Upper School Guidance Counselors facilitating grade level classroom workshops and providing families with information aligned with these, including without limitation, grade 8 classroom workshops regarding 9th grade course selection, including the option for RSTA exploratory programming; CTE Exploratory Coordinator working with the Upper School Guidance Counselors to schedule and implement upper school visits with grade 8 students that include speakers currently enrolled in RSTA programming; each upper school, in collaboration with the CRLS Guidance Department, scheduling a half day visit to CRLS for grade 8 students, including a tour of RSTA, hosting a RSTA Tech Night (open house) as well as other academic and other career connected learning opportunities through the Cambridge Public Schools various curriculum departments; sending out information about course selection to the families of grade 8 students; offering a

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RSTA Exploratory Program for grade 9 students which will provide CRLS 9th grade students who select this elective the opportunity to rotate through all of the RSTA offerings to provide exposure to and awareness of a variety of options that inform future educational and career goals; and posting information regarding RSTA and its programs as well as other pathways at CRLS on the Cambridge Public Schools' website.

The Cambridge Public Schools will provide all 8th grade upper school (middle school) students an opportunity to tour, during regular middle school hours, RSTA and its programs with the transportation costs being assumed by the Cambridge Public Schools. This will be done by each of the upper schools working in collaboration with the CRLS Guidance Department to schedule a half day visit to CLRS including a tour of the building and the RSTA and Visual and Performing Arts wings. Students will not receive an unexcused absence for participating in these tours. Additionally, RSTA provides tours to students and their families upon request.

The Cambridge Public Schools maintains a record of whether an upper school student was in attendance in school on the day of the grade 8 tours of CRLS as part of its student attendance records, and individual grade 8 student 9th grade course selection, MyCAP and CTE schedules as part of an individual student's student record information, which shall be maintained in accordance with federal and state law and regulations and applicable School Committee policies. If a CPS grade 8 student is absent on course selection days, then the guidance counselor will meet with the student individually to ensure that they have completed the process.

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL PATHWAY EXPLORATION POLICY**

APPENDIX

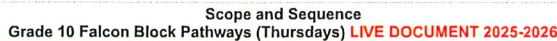
Cambridge Public Schools MyCAP Scope and Sequence by Grade Level



Learning	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Grade 6	Transition/Welcome to Middle School	Learning Styles_PerSoc				Computer Science Playgrounds		Summer Programming/Outside of School Time options	Career Connected Learning 6th Grade lesson 2026	
Grade 7		MIT Museum Field Experience with a focus on AI			Career Connected Learning 7th Grade lesson_Interest Mini Profiler_2025			Summer Programming/Outside of School Time options		
Grade 8			Introduction to CRLS (High School) Lesson 1	8th Grade Visit to CRLS	CTE Coordinator Visits	Introduction to CRLS (High School Course Selection) Lesson 2	High School Course Selection	Summer Programming/Outside of School Time options/High School Clubs and Athletics information	8th Grade Civics Project Presentations	8th Grade Personal Presentations
	NOTES:									
	Personal and Social Emotional Learning Specific Lessons are focus areas in Wellness Coursework									
	2025-2026 Roll-out of WayFinder Social Emotional Learning Program for All CPS Upper Schools; lessons are TBD									
	Guidance Counselors support Advisory time covering school-based needs from academic planning and support, community building, and social emotional learning									
	Upper School Students develop personal reflection projects									

Scope and Sequence

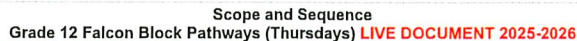
Grade 9 Falcon Block Pathways (Thursdays) **LIVE DOCUMENT 2025-2026**



	Semester 2 - Quarter 4 (4/6/2026-6/23/2026)											
	April				May				June			
	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
Core Lessons	Financial Literacy-Money Management	Grading Period Reflections	No School	Financial Literacy-Money Management	Credit for Life Fair-Student Registration, Updated 2025.05.06	Share Your Voice_Topic Grad Requirements		MCAS Infrastructure Trial/Fresh Sesh In Auditorium	MCAS - No Falcon Block	SEL_Taking + Leaving	Semester Exam_Make-up Day	SUMMER BREAK!!
Grade 9 Mentor Weeks		MENTORS		MENTORS (final)								
MLDifferentiated Lessons												
Wayfinder Core Skill	Self-Awareness, Agency, Collaboration											
Career Awareness or Employability Skill	Applied Knowledge, Effective Relationships											
Academic Focus and Civic Focus	Portrait of a Graduate: Adaptability & Critical Thinking, Civic Reciprocity											
Additional Wayfinder Activities to build community (for use in any class/block)	Back to School 9-12	Games 9-12	Creating Connection	Ice Breakers	Office of Career, Technical, & Adult Education: Employability Skills Framework							



Semester 2 - Quarter 4 (4/6/2026-6/23/2026)												
April				May				June				
	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
Core Lessons	Recommendation Letters and your Brag Sheet	Grading Period Reflections	No School	Fit Money-Student	Fit Money-Student	Credit for Life Fair-Student Registration, Updated 2025.05.06	SEL_Letters of Gratitude	MCAS Infrastructure Trial/Fresh Sesh in Auditorium	MCAS - No Falcon Block	SEL_Taking + Leaving	Semester Exam, Make-in Day	SUMMER BREAK!?
		MENTORS		MENTORS (final)								
Grade 9 Mentor Weeks												
MLD Differentiated Lessons												
Wayfinder Core Skill	Self-Awareness, Agency, Collaboration											
Career Awareness or Employability Skill	Applied Knowledge, Effective Relationships											
Academic Focus and Civic Focus	Portrait of a Graduate: Adaptability & Critical Thinking, Civic Reciprocity											
Additional Wayfinder Activities to build community (for use in any class/block)	Back In School 9-12	Games 9-12	Creating Connection	Ice Breakers	Office of Career, Technical, & Adult Education: Employability Skills Framework							



Semester 1 - Quarter 2 (11/4/2025-1/16/2026)										
November				December				January		
6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15
SEL_How Many Pandas?	Grading Period Reflections	What Really Brings You Joy?_SEL	No School	Falcon Block-Financial Awareness Part1-Post Grad Plans	Falcon Block-Financial Awareness Part2-Post Grad Plans	Community Games (Choose your own)	No School	No School	Goal Snowball Fight	Alternative Bell Schedules - Semester Exams Brain Break
MENTORS		MENTORS		MENTORS		MENTORS			MENTORS	
Self-Awareness, Agency, Collaboration										
Applied Knowledge, Effective Relationships										
Portrait of a Graduate: Adaptability & Critical Thinking, Civic Reciprocity										

	Semester 2 - Quarter 4 (4/18/2026-6/23/2026)											
	April				May				June			
	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
Core Lessons	Fit Money-Student	Grading Period Reflections	No School	Fit Money-Student	Important Senior Graduation Info_2025	12.SEL_Gratitude + Memories	SEL_Taking + Leaving	MCAS Infrastructure Trial/Fresh Sesh in Auditorium	Graduation Week			
Grade 9 Mentor Weeks		MENTORS		MENTORS (final)								
MLDifferentiated Lessons												
Wayfinder Core Skill	Self-Awareness, Agency, Collaboration											
Career Awareness or Employability Skill	Applied Knowledge, Effective Relationships											
Academic Focus and Civic Focus	Portrait of a Graduate: Adaptability & Critical Thinking, Civic Reciprocity											
Additional Wayfinder Activities to build community (for use in any class/block)	Back to School 9-12 Games 9-12 Creating Connection Ice Breakers Office of Career, Technical, & Adult Education: Employability Skills Framework											