

Career Kickstart™

Powered by AP®

Career Kickstart — a new program from College Board—aims to clear a path for students to own their future through career preparation.

Career Kickstart™ is a new **career-focused program** that leads to **credentials and college credit** for all students who want to prepare for a career, whether they are heading to two- or four-year colleges, technical schools, or the workforce.

With a focus on **high-demand fields** like **cybersecurity**, Career Kickstart brings the best of Advanced Placement® to courses designed for career and technical education.

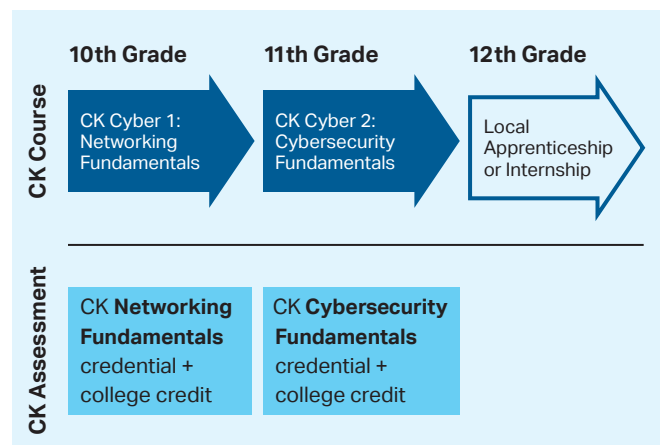
Courses are powered by the AP® features that educators value: robust **teacher training**, dedicated educator communities, **free** student resources, high-quality assessments, and the broadest national network of college credit policies.

Cybersecurity Pathway

Cybersecurity is an in-demand, high-growth field with entry-level jobs that pay well and don't require a four-year degree. There are currently more than 500,000 open cybersecurity jobs across the country¹, but less than 2% of high school students have access to cybersecurity pathways². Career Kickstart is piloting the cybersecurity pathway with schools in 2024-25 and 2025-26 in preparation for national launch in 2026-27.

Cybersecurity is the first pathway Career Kickstart will launch. We are exploring additional pathways in other high-growth sectors like health sciences and business.

CK STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Career Kickstart courses prepare students through:



Applied learning: Students will build the skills needed to solve problems in the job sector by doing activities rooted in authentic work-based scenarios.



Career connections: Students learn about the career field and the skills and knowledge required to be successful.



Supportive instruction: Course content is designed with appropriate scaffolding and contexts to ensure students from all backgrounds can meaningfully engage and succeed.

Career Kickstart Cybersecurity pathway resources:

- **Course frameworks** outline the essential knowledge and learning objectives for each course, provide pacing suggestions, and emphasize both the technical and professional skills needed in the industry.
- **Sample lesson plans**, aligned to the course frameworks, provide applied and career-connected pedagogy.
- **5-day summer training** on course content, lesson development, and delivery.
- Monthly **professional learning** opportunities during the school year designed to enable teachers of various backgrounds to lead CK courses successfully.
- Online **teacher community** to share best practices.
- **Career Kickstart Classroom** (modeled after AP Classroom) will provide exam practice for teachers and students.
- Exam that qualifies for **college credit**.



Apply by November 15, 2024, to be a Career Kickstart Pilot Teacher!
careerkickstart.org

1. Cyberseek.org

2. cybersupply.org

Career Kickstart Cybersecurity Pilot Overview

In the 2025-26 school year, Career Kickstart will pilot the Cybersecurity pathway with 500 high schools to test the course frameworks for **Career Kickstart Cybersecurity 1: Networking Fundamentals** and **Career Kickstart Cybersecurity 2: Cybersecurity Fundamentals**.

Participating teachers will use the course frameworks and administer the course assessments.

We are piloting in **AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, ID, IN, KY, MD, MI, MS, NC, ND, NV, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, and VA**. If you'd like to be a pilot teacher and you're not in one of these states, please email careerkickstartpilots@collegeboard.org.

Pilot Timeline

June 2024: School application opens

November 15, 2024: Deadline for applications to be received

December 2024: Invitations to participate sent to all accepted schools

February 2025: Deadline for schools to confirm participation

Spring 2025: Schools recruit students to Career Kickstart courses for the 2025-26 school year

July 2025: Pilot teachers attend Career Kickstart Summer Institute (CKSI) (multiple dates and locations will be available)

August/September 2025: Pilot teachers launch Career Kickstart course

November 15, 2025: Deadline to register students for Career Kickstart exams*

May 2026: Career Kickstart exam administered and completion of pilot year

**Except for courses that don't start until after Nov 15.*



School Commitments

- Identify a teacher to lead the course during the 2025-26 school year.
- Send the teacher to a 5-day CKSI during July 2025.
 - ♦ Registration fee: \$900
 - ♦ Lodging: College Board will cover cost of lodging for Pilot participants for SY25-26.
- Register students for Career Kickstart exams by the Nov 15 2025, deadline using the AP Registration and Ordering system. Order exams as part of the school's AP Exam order submitted by the AP coordinator.

For more information on Pilot commitments and to apply, visit [Careerkickstart.org](https://careerkickstart.org)

Questions? Email careerkickstartpilots@collegeboard.org

Why is College Board launching Career Kickstart?

Students demand more career exploration in high school to help them turn a passion into a profession, but many lack access to quality career-focused programs that lead to in-demand jobs. College Board launched Career Kickstart to provide a pathway for these students.

With a proven record of designing high-quality educational opportunities for scale, College Board is building Career Kickstart in partnership with industry and higher education to assure national access to outstanding career education that today is only available in some communities.

College Board's aim is to clear a path for all students to own their future, saving students time and money on their educational journey. Career Kickstart is an important new program to meet that mission.