

Parents,

On February 25, 2008 the Arizona State Board of Education approved Education and Career Action Plans (ECAP) for all Arizona students grades 9-12 (R7-2-302.05).

“Effective for the graduation class of 2013, schools shall complete for every student in grades 9-12 an Arizona Education and Career Action Plan.”

At district counselors meeting it was decided that all eighth grade counselors would meet with their students and begin this process. By now I have met with every eighth grade student in our Dell Lab and assisted them in setting up their electronic portfolio system (EPS). In this meeting they learned how to access the system, set up their portfolio's password, and took two surveys. Based on the outcomes of these surveys they were provided with career clusters that they were able to explore. The ECAP will be used by students throughout their high school years, and possibly beyond. Every student will meet with their high school counselor on an ongoing basis continuing to revisit and work with this tool. We believe that by allowing students to have an understanding of the connection between their career goals and what they are doing in school will increase their motivation. I encourage you to discuss this with your child. Have them log on to their ECAP and show you what they have done. Please understand this is very new to them and may have difficulty explaining. I am providing some information that I hope will help and leaving brochures in the office, however; I am always available to answer any question you have.

Arizona Student Education & Career Action Plans (ECAP) 2008 - 2009

Arizona Philosophy ~

We as educators believe that integrating an Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) process into all facets of the school experience enables students to be lifelong learners and problem-solvers, developing and applying 21st century skills to their life experiences, as students, as workers, as consumers, and as responsible citizens. With the ability to identify skills and interests and to apply that knowledge to create their own ECAP, our students will have developed needed skills to advance in a more fluid, seamless transition, meeting 21st Century technologies and work place postsecondary requirements. Arizona Department of Education (ADE) – 2008

ECAP Definition ~

An ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) reflects a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student's individual academic and career goals. Ideally, the initial plan will be developed in middle school and updated on a yearly basis throughout high school and the postsecondary years.

Arizona Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP – State Board Rule # R7-2-302.05)

Attributes

An Arizona Education and Career Action Plan shall, at minimum, allow students to enter, track and update the following information:

ACADEMIC

- Plan coursework
- Meet high school requirements
- Document postsecondary education goals
- Review academic progress to include needed interventions or advisements
- Record academic achievement or awards

CAREER

- Identify postsecondary career plans, options, interests or skills
- Explore career opportunities
- Explore needed educational requirements to meet the career option

POSTSECONDARY

- Explore admissions requirements
- Complete necessary applications
- Create a financial assistance plan

EXTRACURRICULAR

Documentation for participation in:

- Clubs or organizations
- Athletics
- Recreational activities
- Fine arts opportunities
- Community service or volunteer activities
- Work experiences, internships, job shadow, etc
- Leadership opportunities
- Other activities the student might wish to note

What are the benefits of student Education & Career Action Plans?

Personalized planning, using ECAPS, will help students reach their academic and career goals and can impact student achievement and school improvement. Implementation of student personalized planning can reap the following benefits:

Benefits to Students:

- Provides valuable learning experiences in setting and attaining goals.
- Encourages personal involvement in their goal decisions.
- Provides an understanding of how education is relevant to achieving career goals.

Benefits to Parents:

- Provides families increased opportunities to be involved in their children's education.
- Increases student success.
- Informs decision making for life choices.

Benefits to Schools:

- Improves course enrollment patterns.
- Increases student achievement.
- Improves relationships between students, parents, schools, and community.
- Increases student attendance, motivation, and engagement in school.
- Increases extracurricular activity participation.
- Increases the number of students meeting postsecondary entrance requirements.

Benefits to Community:

- Develops a more qualified and motivated workforce.
- Promotes opportunities to be involved with education.
- Provides resources for internships and job shadowing opportunities.

Helpful Resource Link ~

Current information concerning the Arizona Education and Career Action Plan State Board Rule, including suggested implementation timelines and sample templates can be found on the Arizona Department of Education webpage, www.ade.az.gov/ecap.

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