



We must redesign our education and workforce systems to become on-ramps for young people to enter rewarding careers. College and Career readiness are essential components of a prosperous future.

On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona launched “Raise the Bar: Lead the World.” In a speech at the U.S. Department of Education, Secretary Cardona laid out the Department’s focus for the year, building off his priorities to promote academic excellence for every learner and better prepare our nation for global competitiveness.

### Keys to Success

<b>Dual Enrollment</b>	<b>Work-based Learning</b>	<b>Workforce Credentials</b>	<b>Career Advising and Navigation</b>
Earn college credit during high school	Gain early exposure to real world experience	Develop a competitive edge for your career	Make informed decisions about life after high school

### What it Means to Unlock Career Success for Students

Getting there will require that we look past simply recovering—we must Raise the Bar.

To accomplish this, the U.S. Department of Education has initiated **Unlocking Career Success**, an inter-agency initiative with the Departments of Labor and Commerce creating and expanding opportunities for all students to engage in innovative and equitable pathways that propel them to rewarding futures.

The initiative has four main components:



<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Practical Tools and Playbook</b>	<b>Communities of Practice</b>	<b>Summits and Exemplars</b>	<b>Career Connected HS Grant</b>
A suite of tools and resources for stakeholders on a new website (see QR code) focused on college and career readiness	Hearing directly from the field about the challenges and opportunities in advancing college and career readiness for students	Regional convenings to uplift best practices, share learnings and highlight exemplars within each of the four pillars	A \$25M grant that will be awarded to grantees to jumpstart and/or advance their work advancing college and career pathways

We call on our governors, mayors, boards of education, postsecondary systems, workforce boards, and district and school leaders—working in partnership with parents, families, communities, and educators—to join us in Unlocking Career Success for students across our country.

Please visit [Unlocking Career Success](#) to learn more about the specific strategies outlined, get connected to resources, and find links to grants that can support the efforts and strategies of states and districts.