

**Pillar 2, Middle School:
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Middle School Partnerships for Career and Workforce Preparation



Evidence

- Partnerships help projects provide connections to the real world, especially for those who are new to the content
- It is important to leverage partnerships in local community
- Project partnerships need to balance content, engagement, and identity development (i.e. rabbit hole of depth)

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Challenges

- How can partnerships help to support students to persevere with what is hard or unfamiliar?
- How do we integrate partnerships in schools, given school constraints, schedules, standards, etc.
- How do we create exposure to careers in communities that do not have individuals who have those careers?

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Research

- How to recruit and sustain partnerships, even partnerships with teachers?
- How partnerships can help to reconsider what students need to learn about STEM, and how they need to learn it?
- What kinds of future are kids imagining and how can we broaden what they imagine?