

Careers & Enterprise Company



England

We are the national body for careers education in England, supporting schools and colleges to deliver modern, 21st century careers education. Our mission is to help every young person find their best next step. Our work is at national scale and delivered through our network of Careers Hubs. Reaching 93% of secondary schools and colleges in England, Career Hubs bring together schools, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers in local areas across England, and work in partnership with Mayoral and local authorities to connect with local skills need. As a result, young people are more than twice as likely to report awareness of apprenticeships between Year 7 and 11. Learners in 64% of schools have 10 or more encounters with employers by the time they leave school.

Our work within the framework Global Career Readiness Initiative

The Effective Transitions Fund (ETF) supports disadvantaged youth in England through targeted career education. Following successful Phase 1 outcomes in local contexts, Phase 2 aims to build evidence for national implementation.

Organization's related priorities

This research-driven expansion focuses on maximizing program outcomes and implementing programs effectively in diverse settings. With five key projects, ETF Phase 2 will develop a framework for creating an efficient, scalable model for effective career transitions nationwide.

Priorities for community engagement

- Understanding how to codify projects to allow others to deliver them.
- Understanding how to achieve scale.
- Understanding how the above priorities have been achieved in other settings and contexts would be really helpful.

Partnerships & Alliances

- The CEC is the national body for careers education in England, working in partnership with the UK government to ensure consistent, high-quality provision
- Supports over 1,000 employers, 4,000 business volunteers and 50 sector bodies in England to support meaningful engagement with schools and colleges
- Supports 400 training and delivery providers to promote and showcase their activities, resources and support direct to schools and colleges
- A network of [Careers Hubs](#), bring together schools, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers in local areas across England, providing dedicated teams and support to enable quality careers education provision

For further information, please contact Max Rowe (mrowe@careersandenterprise.co.uk)

England Landscape

The Careers & Enterprise Company



Data - Transition From School To Work (United Kingdom)

Indicators for youth between 15 - 24/29 years old

Labor Force Participation Rate (15 - 24 years old; OECD, 2022)	Share Of Youth Not In Education, Employment Or Training (15 - 29 years old; OECD, 2022)		Unemployment Youth (15 - 24 years old; ILO, 2023)	
60% total	10.7% male	10.5% female	14.3% male	9.6% female

Current State of Career Readiness

- **National Work Experience Guarantee** ensures every young person has 2 weeks of work experience to build essential skills, understand the world of work, and improve employment prospects.
- **Youth Guarantee** provides young people with access to education, training, or support to help them secure employment and reduce unemployment.
- **Skills England**, an arms-length government body brings together government, employers, training providers, and local partners to plan and deliver skills development

Challenges and Gaps

- A persistent gap in career readiness exists between the most and least economically disadvantaged young people. Students on free school meals show career readiness 2–5 percentage points lower than their peers, with the gap widest in Year 11. High-quality careers provision can close this gap by meeting individual needs.

Emerging Trends

- 92% of schools and colleges use the CEC's Compass tool to report against the **Gatsby Benchmarks**, covering 3 million students.
- Compass enables **student-level reporting** and widespread use of the Future Skills Questionnaire with over 230,000 young people.
- High-quality resources support Careers Leaders, Advisers, Careers Hub staff & employers through **digital platforms**.

Recommendations

- The **Gatsby Benchmarks** are a renowned framework of 8 benchmarks, which define what world class careers provision in education looks like. They provide a clear framework for organising careers provision in schools and colleges, helping raise the quality of provision.