

# Sample Text for Your Grant Application

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*This collection of sample language provides a framework for articulating the Get Focused Stay Focused program's benefits and how Get Focused Stay Focused aligns with specific goals. Please feel free to adapt and customize this language in order to effectively showcase how Get Focused Stay Focused will contribute to the success of your specific grant application and positively impact ongoing pathway expansion and improvement efforts in your district.*

## Desired Outcome 1: Early Career Exploration Integrated Pathway Launch Course for ALL 9th Grade Students

For our work plan, the Get Focused Stay Focused (GFSF) 9th grade course (CalPADS code 7000) serves as the foundational launch course for all career pathways, meeting the grant's integrated program of study expectation.

As the only statewide A-G approved early career exploration course offering 3 units of dual enrollment credit, the 'Get Focused' 9th grade course will guide students to meeting the "Prepared" level on the College/Career Indicator (CCI) of the California School Dashboard. In fact, upon successful completion of the 'Get Focused' 9th grade course, students will be halfway to the "Prepared" level.

As the first sequence course for each of our career pathways, the 9th grade 'Get Focused' course ensures comprehensive career exploration from the outset. The course supports diverse career pathways, fostering both academic rigor and career readiness. Being aligned with California state, Common Career Technical Core, and Career Ready Practice standards underscores the credibility and relevance of GFSF, establishing a firm foundation for students' academic and career endeavors. By propelling students to attain the "Prepared" level on the CCI, GFSF contributes to the integration of academic and career exploration, fulfilling the grant's overarching goal.

In summary, Get Focused Stay Focused is a cornerstone in the holistic education of our students with a comprehensive, A-G approved, early career exploration experience that prepares students academically and professionally by enhancing their confidence and competence in both realms.

## Desired Outcome 2: Equitable Access to Postsecondary Credits While in High School

Implementing Get Focused Stay Focused (GFSF) as a part of our work plan introduces a series of equitable dual enrollment opportunities. Beginning with the A-G approved 'Get Focused' course for all 9th graders, this foundational launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000) also provides 3 units of dual enrollment credit. Additional college credits will be available to all students through 1-unit 'Stay Focused' modules in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. This early start to the college

pathway aims to mitigate equity gaps, remove barriers to student success, and foster a proactive “I am college material” mindset.

Additionally, GFSF will allow our 9th grade students to engage in the development of a personalized 10-year skills-based career and education planning process, gaining insights into the advantages of dual enrollment and Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. This understanding will encourage increased dual enrollment participation across grade levels and enhance pathway completion rates. As a result, GFSF will help us address this outcome by providing early college credit opportunities while preparing students for postsecondary success and academic achievement.

### Desired Outcome 3: Work-Based Learning Experiences

We aim to cultivate robust work-based learning experiences through strategic partnerships with local businesses, public agencies, and community-based organizations.

At the core of our work plan is our integration of the Get Focused Stay Focused (GFSF) course, which serves as the foundational launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000), providing a crucial onramp that propels students toward well-informed pathway decisions. By taking the ‘Get Focused’ course, students are not only exposed to diverse career options but are also equipped with the necessary preparation and knowledge to engage in work-based learning opportunities.

Aligned with California state, Common Career Technical Core, and Career Ready Practice standards, Get Focused Stay Focused courses play a pivotal role in broadening students’ horizons and preparing them for the dynamic demands of the workforce. Through this comprehensive approach, the sequenced and informative GFSF curriculum fosters a culture of readiness and adaptability, ensuring that students are primed to excel in various professional work-based learning settings.

By leveraging the strengths of GFSF, we are committed to empowering the next generation with the skills, knowledge, work-based learning experience (e.g., pre-apprenticeship, internships, co-ops), and confidence to thrive in our ever-evolving job market.

### Desired Outcome 4: Holistic Support Services

As part of our work plan, the ‘Get Focused’ course for all 9th graders is taught using *Career Choices and Changes* and My10yearPlan.com. These proven curriculum materials offer holistic support for our students’ social, emotional, and academic needs. Integrating CASEL components, the course enhances self-awareness through 100 activities that aid in career decision-making and future-focused financial planning. Embracing diversity is woven throughout the curriculum, fostering the cultural awareness crucial for effective collaboration in both the local and global workplace.

The course also focuses on resilience and the development of a hardy personality, encouraging our students to understand and embrace the role failure plays in learning and growth while continuing to strive for success. Through activities promoting empathy, adaptability, and a proactive mindset, our

students are equipped with essential 21st-century skills.

In addition, the coursework offers a real-world opportunity to practice essential academic skills. This academically integrated approach to our foundational launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000) addresses diverse needs and ensures inclusivity for all students, including those from underrepresented populations.

### Desired Outcome 5: Building Industry-Aligned Pathways

Our work plan incorporates a foundational 9th grade launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000) and 1-unit 'Stay Focused' modules in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades that guide students in analyzing local labor market data to identify high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations that align with their individualized interests and life plans. For instance, recent reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate a significant demand for skilled professionals in fields such as [insert priority sectors meeting regional needs] within our region. Leveraging this data, our students tailor their 10-year career and life plan to pathways that align with industry needs, ensuring they are equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills that will benefit them and the local economy.

In addition, our comprehensive work plan and GFSF curriculum incorporate integrated support services, guided by insights from hands-on career exploration activities, surveys, and assessments. Data from these sources enable us to identify specific social, emotional, skill, and academic needs and efficiently track student progress and completion of long-term goals, which then allows us to design targeted interventions for student success. Furthermore, our timeline for implementation is informed by historical data on program efficacy and student outcomes, ensuring that activities are meticulously planned and executed to maximize student success, and retention.

By combining industry insights with robust data analysis, GFSF not only helps students align their career pathway options to high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand sectors but also provides tailored support services that address the diverse needs of our student population. This comprehensive, qualitative, and data-driven approach ensures that student career development and pathway choices are not only industry-connected but also highly responsive to the evolving demands of the workforce, ultimately preparing students for success in their chosen career pathway.

### Desired Outcome 6: Improved Pathway Navigation for Increased Student Success

As part of our work plan and Get Focused Stay Focused (GFSF) program, our team strategically collaborates with postsecondary and business partners to effectively implement a scalable whole-school approach. GFSF engages students from 9th to 12th grade, ensuring a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary training and the workforce. The program's structured progression, with 'Get Focused' in 9th grade and 'Stay Focused' from 10th to 12th grade, supports the continuous development of education and career plans, motivating students to pursue and complete their chosen career pathways, and explore and engage in work-based learning experiences.

Using the innovative GFSF dual enrollment strategy, initiated with all 9th graders, provides a symbiotic collaboration between our district and local community college. The 'Stay Focused' modules empower students to explore careers and postsecondary options, continuously updating their 10-year plans, which may lead to work-based learning experiences (e.g., pre-apprenticeships, internships, or co-ops). With the active involvement of all of our faculty, the program optimizes data-driven plans, facilitating a smooth transition into college, postsecondary training, or the workforce.

Aligned with California state, Common Career Technical Core, and Career Ready Practice standards, GFSF courses play a pivotal role in nurturing essential employability skills (e.g., communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, adaptability, collaboration, interpersonal skills). Integrated throughout the coursework, these skills serve as foundational elements for workplace success, complementing technical expertise and preparing students for various career pathways while instilling commitment and a success-oriented mindset, whether their goal is completion of a high school pathway, college, or an additional certification program.

This emphasis on employability skill building is particularly vital for at-risk students who may lack role models. The comprehensive guidance provided by GFSF coursework ensures that all students are equipped to meet the heightened expectations of their chosen career paths.

### **Desired Outcome 7: Successful Pathways through Engagement and Collaboration**

Our comprehensive work plan includes active collaboration between local educational agencies, postsecondary partners, workforce development agencies, local employers, and community stakeholders to enhance students' career exploration and readiness. Through activities provided in conjunction with the 'Get Focused' foundational launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000), students are prepared for interactions with local employers and community members through a variety of work-based learning experiences (e.g., career fairs, job shadows, mock interviews, internships, pre-apprenticeships). These efforts aim to provide practical introductory experience with chosen career paths, boosting students' confidence and competence in the professional realm.

Additionally, collaboration with local community colleges will lead to dual enrollment credit for the 'Get Focused' course, aligning with the goal of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for offering dual enrollment opportunities to every 9th grade student, thereby mitigating equity gaps, removing barriers to student success, and fostering a proactive "I am college material" mindset, including students from underrepresented populations.

### **Desired Outcome 8: Sustainable Pathways by Design for Long-Term Success**

While our plan is to begin this effort with this grant funding, we will sustain our efforts by incorporating other available federal and state funding sources such as Perkins, Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant, and K12 Strong Workforce Program, and will pursue additional grants through opportunities such as College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) and Middle College and Early College (MCEC).

Furthermore, we anticipate that key data metrics will support the institution of the 'Get Focused' course and the 10-year Plan that students develop as a graduation requirement. As a result, the integration of our 'Get Focused' course will also become part of our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

In addition, the 'Get Focused' foundational launch course for all our career pathways (CalPADS code 7000) is inherently more sustainable than many similar programs. Not only does the course curriculum have a proven track record of over 33 years, but the costs of the curriculum materials and resources are also lower than industry standards. (The GFSF curriculum partner, Academic Innovations, is a mission-driven publisher.)

Utilizing professional development resources from Get Focused Stay Focused and Academic Innovations also empowers our educators to refine instructional practices, ensuring that students consistently receive a relevant and enriching education. The additional investment in these low-cost, high-quality resources ensures our staff remains abreast of the latest pedagogical approaches and best practices, thereby fostering a culture of continuous improvement within our educational institution and contributing to the sustainability of our efforts.

Through prudent resource allocation and the braiding for other available federal and state funding sources, we will continue to invest in various aspects of our educational ecosystem, prioritizing student learning outcomes, career readiness, and the cultivation of purpose-driven aspirations.

### Desired Outcome 9: Tools for Data-Driven Planning and Decision-Making

As a part of our approach, we will leverage the reporting features embedded within My10yearPlan.com to enhance our ability to collect, track, and analyze data related to students' 10-Year Plans, facilitating informed decision-making and promoting student success throughout their educational journey.

These robust reporting capabilities will empower our team to gain important insights into students' educational and career aspirations. For example, Career Path Reports offer detailed information on the job titles, related industry sectors, and education/training levels associated with students' comprehensive career research activities. With the flexibility to filter data and export reports, our team can easily customize our analysis to focus on specific criteria, maximizing the usefulness of the information collected.

Moreover, these Career Path Reports contribute to planning discussions with our local and regional postsecondary, workforce development, and industry partners, facilitating the alignment of pathway offerings with industry needs, thereby enhancing students' readiness for future careers that will benefit the local economy. Utilizing students' collective and individual career interests and educational goals to inform our discussions with partners will also result in more impactful and meaningful opportunities for students to pursue the education and training needed to achieve their career plans.

In addition, Pre-/Post-Course Survey Reports and 10-Year Plan Summary Page Reports offer our team valuable insights into how students' attitudes and plans may change as a result of the Get Focused Stay Focused career exploration and life planning process. These reports facilitate effective evaluation

processes; provide a comprehensive overview of changes in students' perspectives on education, career paths, and workplace realities over time; and allow our team to efficiently track student progress and completion of long-term goals in order to provide targeted support and interventions where needed.

In short, leveraging the My10yearPlan.com reporting tools allows our team to strategically align educational and career pathways with local/regional high-wage, high-skill, high-growth areas. This empowers our students to seamlessly transition from high school to college and career, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to our local labor market's economic growth. By making data-informed decisions and fostering continuous improvement, our efforts are amplified, leading to greater impact and opportunity for students to thrive in key sectors essential for economic advancement.