

**The 2010 Georgia BRIDGE Act
Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop
Georgia's Economy**

Georgia's 2010 BRIDGE Act is designed to help students reach their career goals. All 6th–12th grade students in public schools will have the opportunity to explore career and postsecondary education options in addition to their academic studies.

Teachers and counselors, **using the Georgia Career Information System (GCIS) and GCIS Junior**, will assist students with state mandated activities that are grade appropriate and designed to:

- Improve high school graduation rates
- Improve student preparedness for postsecondary education
- Improve student preparedness for careers
- Involve students and parents in the education process

Individual Career Plan

During the second semester, each 8th grade student will create an Individual Career Plan. Parents/guardians and counselors and advisors will help the student design a plan that combines the student's interests, skills and academics which leads to successful completion of high school and preparation for postsecondary education and/or the workforce. Individual Career Plans will be reviewed annually and should include the following:

- High school academic core subjects and sequenced course work
- Course work and activities related to future education goals
- Course work and activities related to future career goals
- Consideration of experience-based learning (internships, apprenticeships, co-op education, service learning)
- Consideration of College Credit Now programs
- Structured to meet graduation requirements

Planning - Year by Year Checklist

6th, 7th, and 8th grade student activities

Schools will provide advisement and activities for 6th – 8th grade students resulting in an Individual Career Plan for each student before the end of the second semester of the 8th grade. Counselors, advisors, and teachers will work with students and their parents/guardians to ensure that each plan aligns state education goals with student interests and skills.

DONE	GRADE	GCIS/GCIS Junior ACTIVITY
	6 th	Create a portfolio
	6 th	Take the Career Cluster Inventory and save in Portfolio
	7 th	Take Reality Check and save in Portfolio
	7 th	Explore at least 3 Career Clusters and save in Portfolio
	8 th	Explore at least 3 Occupations and save in Portfolio
	8 th	Complete My Course Plan

All second semester 8th grade students, their parents/guardians and advisors will participate in a conference to discuss the career exploration activities and to develop an Individual Career Plan. Individual Career Plans will be shared with administrators and advisors and used to help schedule a student's high school classes.

9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade student activities

Schools will provide annual advisement for 9th – 12th grade students to assist them with updating their Individual Career Plan. Students will also have an opportunity to discuss high school classes, graduation requirements, experience-based learning programs (internships, apprenticeships and more), postsecondary options, and careers with counselors and advisors.

DONE	GRADE	GCIS/GCIS Junior ACTIVITY
	9 th	Explore at least 3 additional Occupations and save in Portfolio
	10 th	Learn about College Credit Now: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Credit, Move on When Ready, Joint Enrollment, High School/College Sponsored Programs
	11 th	Explore at least 3 Postsecondary Institutions and save in Portfolio
	12 th	Identify Next Steps: College, Military, Apprenticeship, Workforce

Individual Career Plans must be approved by the student, the student's parent/guardian, and a counselor or advisor.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the BRIDGE Act benefit students?

The BRIDGE Act will help to ensure that every 6th-12th grade student will have the opportunity for career exploration/career development. Each year, students will complete activities that help them understand the link between education and employment.

Will all schools offer the BRIDGE Act curriculum?

All public middle and high schools will participate in the program.

When will the BRIDGE Act activities be conducted?

Each public school will establish an annual timetable that is best for their students and teacher/advisors.

How should students prepare for these activities?

Students should get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast. BRIDGE Act activities are not graded. They are intended to be fun, educational and thought provoking.

What should parents do to support students and the BRIDGE Act?

Parents should embrace the importance of career exploration and be available to discuss the activities and results. Parents of 8th grade students will be asked to participate in a student/teacher/parent conference and assist with the development of an Individual Career Plan (ICP). The ICP will help determine the student's high school classes and postsecondary advisement needs.

Details of the **BRIDGE Act** (HB 400) can be found at, http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/hb400_HB_400_AP_12.htm.



Contact a counselor or advisor at your school to receive more information and to discuss your options. The material contained in this pamphlet is current as of March 2011.

Stay current on information regarding the BRIDGE Act and GCIS/GCIS Junior by visiting

www.gcic.peachnet.edu



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(BRIDGE) Act with
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ICP
INFORMATION
PARENTS CAN USE