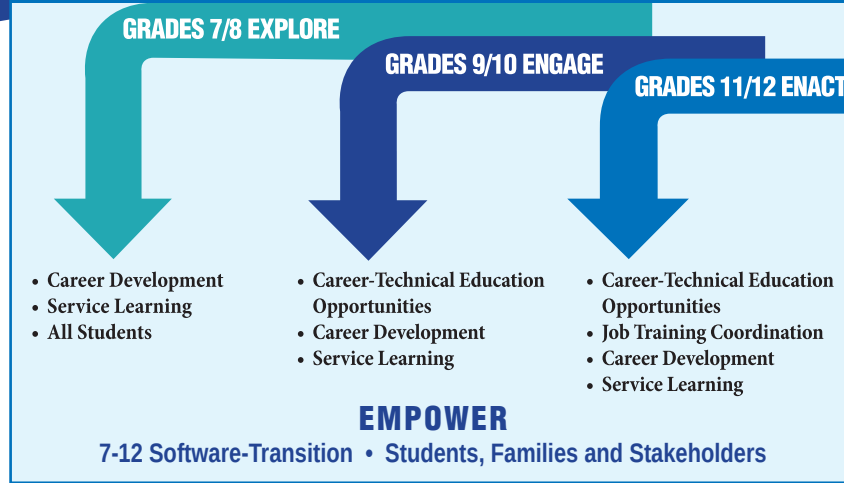


## EMPOWER...

**Anticipated outcome:** The Empower2Employ software will tie all transition stakeholders together to a system in which information can be shared among providers to enhance the collaborative partnerships across the disciplines related to transition.

- **Empower2Employ** software developed with grant resources designed to provide all stakeholders with the ability to access information that focuses on the individualized transition and employment needs of students in grades 7 to 12 and beyond. The main objective is to create a “digital transitional portfolio” for a student, while also giving stakeholders the ability to seamlessly share information.
- After months of development, **Empower2Employ** software will be ready for use in the Compact during the 2017-2018 school year. Currently, the Empower2Employ software is being piloted with students in the Job Training Coordination (JTC) program and the KENnext program, as well as those who attend the Kent State Transition Collaborative (KSTC) program.
- Eventually, the **Empower2Employ** software will be available to all stakeholders, but for purposes of this grant, the initial focus is on providing access for targeted students, their families and Compact professionals working on the project.
- By design, the **Empower2Employ** software works best with those students who are participating in work-related transitional activities. However, the ultimate goal is to use the software with all students who have identified transitional needs.
- The software was developed by Mark Welfley of Welfley Technologies in conjunction with Bryan Harvey, Kent City Schools, and Dr. Rachel McMahan-Queen and Jennifer Miller, Kent State University.

## COMPACT COMPASS: THE FOUR E's INITIATIVE



### About the District Teams

In addition to the FOUR E's components, each Compact district created a “District Team” comprised of staff from grades 7 to 12, an administrator, school counselor and curriculum director. Each team selected one Evidence Based Predictor, which they determined needed improvement based on survey data, and developed an Action Plan. Two all-day Professional Development sessions were held during the summer of 2016.

After receiving feedback from the Grant Advisory Team, implementation began in mid-January 2017. This work will continue through the 2017-18 school year. For the districts, it was the first time a representative group had the opportunity to discuss transition opportunities and develop an Action Plan.

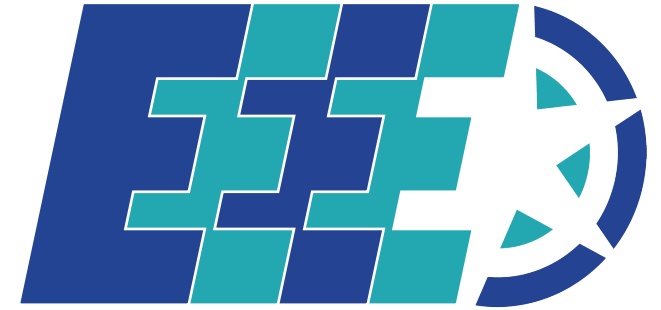
### About the Professional Development

Each Compact district selected a team of middle school educators to participate in in-depth Professional Development, which focused on Service-Learning/Project-Based Learning as a highly effective instructional strategy. Approximately 40 participants attended eight, full-day workshops. Sessions included skill building and team planning time. Teams designed high quality, service-learning and PBL projects, which were presented at a group celebration on April 25, 2017. The final session included a written evaluation and videotaped reflection session. Superintendents, curriculum directors and building administrators provided active support throughout the year.



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## COMPACT COMPASS: THE FOUR E's INITIATIVE

### EXPLORE • ENGAGE • ENACT • EMPOWER

A summary of the project funded by an Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children grant, which focuses on career development opportunities and secondary transition services for students with disabilities, as well as involving teams of middle school students with career development through service-learning and project-based learning.



**Six District Educational Compact**

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge



## EXPLORE...

**Anticipated outcome:** The individualized career development of each student will be initiated at an earlier age.

- Doing the work of real people
- Experts and changemakers
- Authentic products/services for authentic audiences/clients
- Internal Job Description/Internal Compass approach to career development
- Importance of authentic experiences
- Career Development "From the Inside Out"
- Service-Learning/PBL = Highly Effective Instructional Strategies
- Consultants Ellen Erlanger and Kathy Meyer of Partnerships Make a Difference facilitated this Professional Development.



## ENGAGE...

**Anticipated outcome:** The identified GAP students will have additional programmatic options to better understand their career interests and skills through the CTE Rotation System.

- Focusing on approximately 50 students in grades 9 and 10 across the six districts
- Identifying students who need career exploration experiences, including students with disabilities and others in Career Based Intervention
- Including those who may be disenfranchised from the school culture
- Targeting those who are capable but have little if any career direction and exhibit apathetic behavior
- Focusing on those with poor academic records who are not on track to graduate

## ENACT...

**Anticipated outcome:** Through the use of the target evidence-based practices, students will have a better awareness of self and a better ability to advocate for their needs.

- Identifying approximately 20 students in grades 11 and 12 in the Kent City Schools by the Kent State Transition Collaborative (KSTC) and KENnexT to participate in community-based activities.

**About KSTC:** A campus-based work program providing career exploration and job skills development on Kent State University's campus.

- **Career Exploration:** This two-day option helps students to identify their interests and allows them to gain experience at four different job sites and includes classroom workshops that focus on self-advocacy and identification of student strengths and needs.
- **Job Skills Training:** This four-day option helps students to meet employer expectations and develop a work ethic.

**About KENnexT:** A community-based volunteer work program designed to enhance future employment opportunities for student and employers through specially designed services at no cost to participating businesses. KENnexT helps strengthen the connection between local business owners and students in the Kent City Schools. The program structure offers activities, grades 9 through 12 both in the school and in the community.

- **Grade 9** – Business owners come to the school; students explore jobs using the Internet.
- **Grade 10** – Worksite visits/tours; work simulations; career assessment
- **Grade 11** – Job Shadowing; Transportation training; In-school work; advocacy training; employability skills training
- **Grade 12** – Working/volunteering in the community; curriculum based on needs; possible employment in community