

What is CBI at the Middle School Level?

Career-Based Intervention (CBI) is traditionally a high school program designed for students who need additional support to succeed in school and prepare for careers. At the 7th and 8th grade level, CBI can be adapted to focus on:

- Career awareness and exploration
- Work habits and employability skills
- Academic support and goal-setting
- Real-world connections through guest speakers, field trips, and project-based learning

Integration Models

1. Standalone CBI Elective Class

- Frequency: Daily or every other day
- Who it serves: Targeted students who may benefit from extra support, structure, or career guidance
- Content: Career readiness, academic skills, social-emotional learning, and hands-on projects

2. Push-In or Co-Taught Model

- The CBI teacher partners with core subject teachers (ELA, math, science, etc.) to:
 - Reinforce workplace and life skills (teamwork, responsibility, time management)
 - Add career-related context to academic content
 - Deliver mini-lessons or collaborative projects tied to career themes

3. Advisory or Flex Periods

- Use homeroom, advisory, or intervention periods to provide:
 - Career interest inventories
 - SMART goal-setting and tracking

- Soft skill mini-lessons and self-reflection activities

Weekly Theme Breakdown (36-Week Model Example)

Quarter	Weekly Focus	Sample Topics
Q1: Self & Career Awareness	Who am I? Interests and values Career clusters	Career interest surveys, learning styles, career pathway mapping
Q2: Soft Skills & Work Habits	Communication Teamwork Responsibility	Group challenges, role-playing, journaling
Q3: Life & Academic Skills	Time management Study strategies Budgeting	Planner practice, daily routines, financial literacy games
Q4: Career Readiness & Planning	Resume writing Interview practice Long-term planning	Create a career portfolio, mock job applications, student-led goal review

Strategies for Integration

Cross-Curricular Projects

- ELA: Write a personal statement, business email, or research a career
- Math: Budget planning, wage comparison, time management charts
- Science: Explore STEM careers, conduct invention design projects
- Social Studies: Investigate industries in local history or global economics

Guest Speakers & Field Trips

- Invite professionals from local businesses or organizations
- Schedule visits to career centers, technical programs, or local companies

Virtual Options

- Career exploration websites (e.g., OhioMeansJobs K-12, YouScience)
- Virtual job shadowing or panel discussions with professionals

- Online learning modules focused on soft skills or financial literacy

Outcomes & Benefits

- Increases student engagement through real-world relevance
- Builds foundational workplace and decision-making skills
- Improves academic and behavioral performance for at-risk students
- Prepares students to transition into high school CBI or CTE programs

Staffing & Support

- CBI Coordinator or Teacher: Ideally a licensed intervention specialist or CTE teacher with experience in student support and workforce readiness
- School Collaboration: Counselors, intervention specialists, and elective teachers should meet regularly with the CBI teacher to coordinate services
- Family Involvement: Host student-led conferences, career nights, or parent communication about student goals and progress

Implementation Tips

- Start small with a pilot program or elective and expand as needed
- Align to Ohio's Career Readiness standards and/or CTE Career Field frameworks
- Use academic, behavior, and attendance data to identify eligible students
- Include opportunities for student voice, choice, and reflection