

Exploring Post-Secondary Pathways Early — We Don't Have to Wait.

Liberty North High School
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SESSION TEAM

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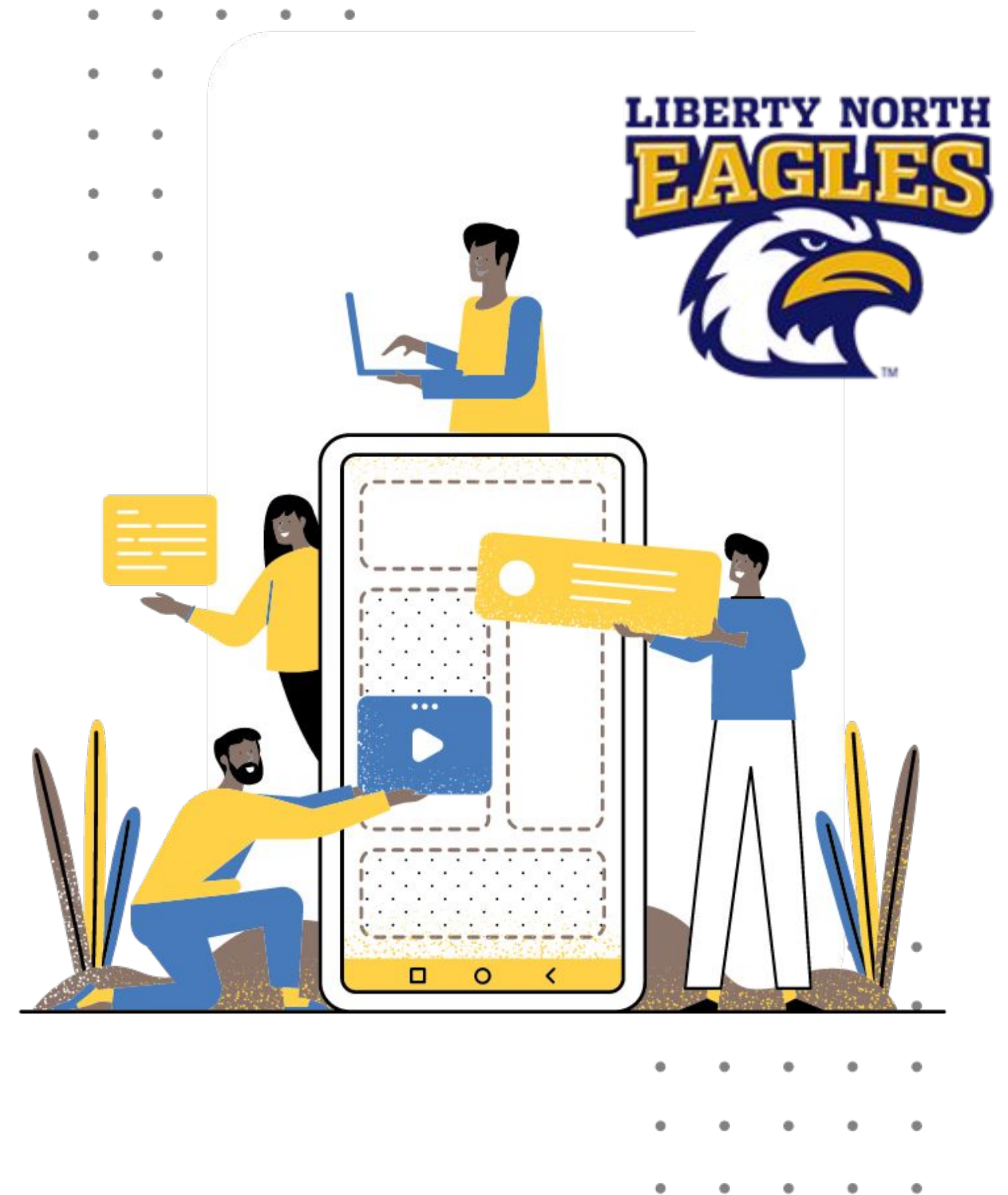
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WHO WE ARE



THE WHY

We would like to show the need for educational reform regarding students' abilities to pursue career-centric curricula within their secondary school.

My school has helped me figure out which careers match my interests and abilities

46%

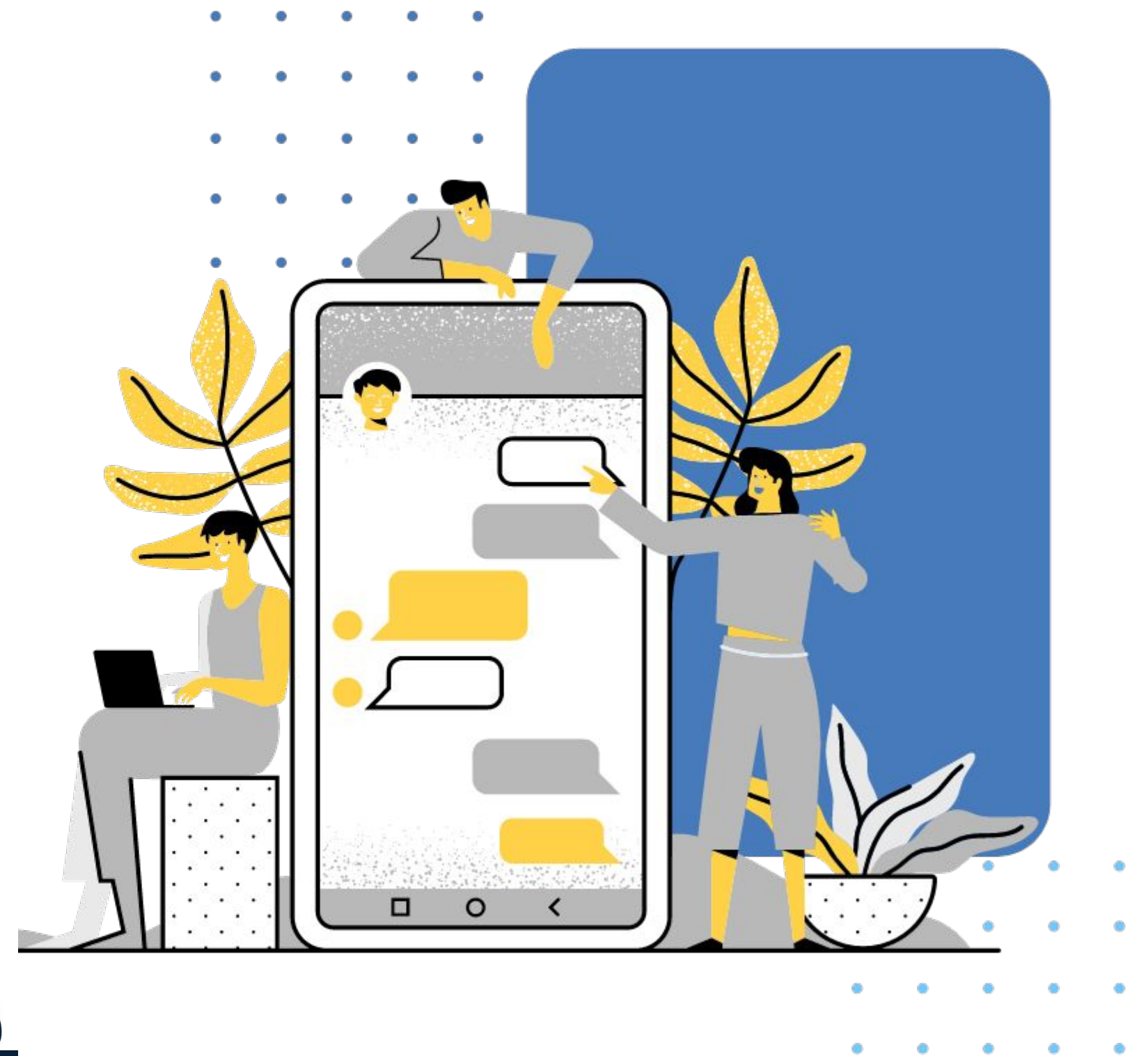


My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to have the career I want

49%



Statistics courtesy of YouthTruth Surveys



DEFINING KEY TERMS

- **Independent Study:** Allowing students to further explore topics of interest, under a teacher, that their school may not typically provide.
- **Career Festivals:** An event for students to gain exposure to career options and hear first-hand from experts in a given field.
- **Career Centers:** Centers for students to gain first-hand experience in a number of different fields by shadowing, hands-on learning, etc.
- **Internship:** Allowing students to obtain detailed, real-world experience in a career area of their choosing for a more accurate perception a respective professions.
- **College Prep:** Giving students resources to ready them for their post secondary career, as it pertains to the college or university pathway.



DIVERSE CHALLENGES

Challenge 1

Student without career plan needs help discovering a path.

- Students often can feel overwhelmed when the time comes to start talking about careers and college near the end of high school, and many aren't sure what to do or where to start, and there aren't any resources to help them figure out a path.
- Students who don't get the chance early on to determine certain skill sets they have or chances to discover certain career paths, can end up feeling hopeless or unsure about their future careers.

Challenge 2

Student has a clear career path but lacks exposure and real-world experience.

- Students may have a clear idea of what they plan to pursue in life but their school does not offer real-world experience that pertains to their career interest.

Challenge 3

Student has a clear career path but requires more knowledge through study and research.

- Students may have a clear idea of what they plan to pursue in college but their school does not offer specialized classes that pertain to their career and aid their college readiness.
- Students who have a clear career path and learn at a faster pace can feel stuck at the pace of their classmates when they could be further preparing for college.

THE WHAT

What would it look like for Kansas City, and the surrounding metro area, to implement these proposed career-centric opportunities in the secondary environment?

Subtopic 1 - Exposure

Exposure to career festivals, college fairs, and aptitude tests can stimulate preemptive career navigation.

Subtopic 2 - Opportunity via experience

Allowing students to gain knowledge of a career through first-hand experience will aid in growth.

Subtopic 3 - Opportunity via research

Allowing students to gain knowledge of a career through academic independent study.

Subtopic 4 - Conclusion

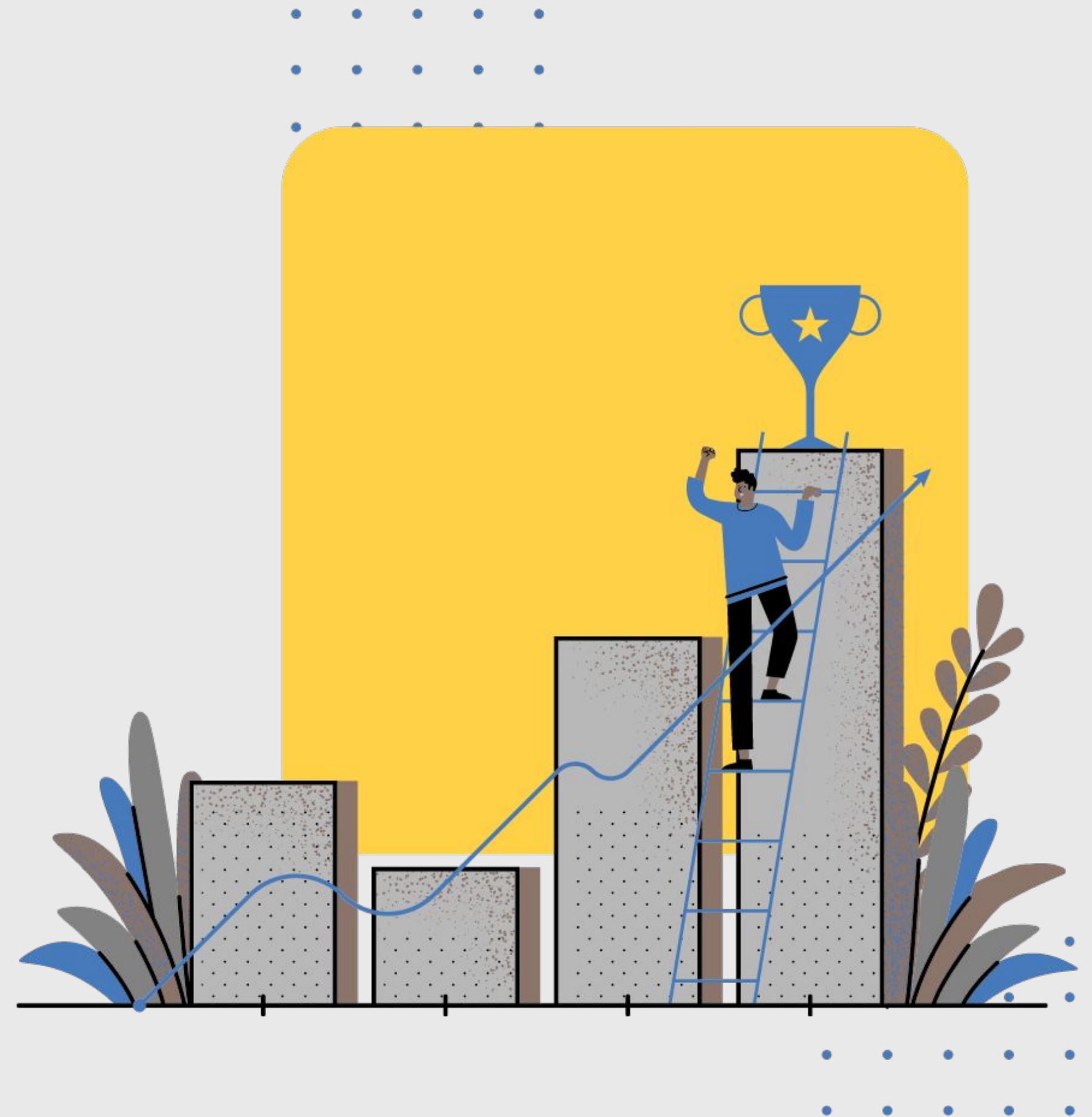
The resounding impact on post-secondary pathway readiness after in-house options become available

Conclusion

- Solution for challenge 1: Early career fairs and aptitude tests for students allows them to have opportunities to connect in a professional environment and start learning about certain skills needed for certain jobs. These resources will give students the chance to explore different skills they wouldn't have seen in themselves and get first hand experience with career professionals.
- Solution for challenge 2: By giving students the opportunity of in-house options for career readiness, it will allow students to not only explore the career field, but also make sure footed decisions in a time when it's vital.
- Solution for challenge 3: implementation of a voluntary independent study program that allows students to do in depth research on topics pertaining to their career with the assistance of a teacher who has experience in the subject. This will give the student the chance to gain more knowledge on their career as well as apply skills needed for college such as independence, time management, determination etc.

THE HOW

- How for challenge 1: Career fairs would be beneficial to any school in Kansas City, especially with how versatile they can be with COVID, there have been many virtual career fairs just in this year. Career fairs are cost effective and can be a great opportunity for kids at lower income schools, to be able to connect with professionals, and learn certain skills about themselves or certain jobs they may be interested in, that they didn't think were possible before. There would not be any financial issues with this solution, there would only be time commitments for the certain employees of jobs to come up to schools for a couple hours.
- How for challenge 2 and 3: Independent studies and career-field experience can be implemented with fairly low cost in both the school's budget and time as the program would be voluntary for both students and teachers, or out of house. However it does require an interest in the program from both students and in some cases, teachers as well. The main cost would come from resources for students and compensation for teachers who choose to oversee the independent studies or shadowing.



Thank you.

