Fennimore Community Schools
Academic and Career Planning
2026-2027 School Year

Purpose of Academic and Career Planning (ACP)

Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) envisions that every student will graduate prepared for college and their career. Fennimore Community Schools believe that an effective Academic and Career Plan will benefit our students and families by helping them make informed academic decisions as they pursue their chosen path in life. As student opportunities grow and the job market becomes more diverse and competitive, preparing our students and families to make informed choices is of growing importance.

What is PI-26?

Chapter PI-26 is the legislation of the State of Wisconsin that requires every school district to provide academic and career planning services to pupils enrolled in grades 6-12. This chapter establishes the requirements for education for employment programs. The purpose is to do all of the following: a) Prepare elementary and secondary pupils for future employment b) Ensure technological literacy to promote lifelong learning c) Promote good citizenship d) Promote cooperation among business, industry, labor, postsecondary schools, and public schools e) Establish a role for public schools in the economic development of Wisconsin

District and Community Demographics

Fennimore Community School District is situated in Grant County in the rural driftless region of Southwest Wisconsin. US Highways 18 and 61 intersect in Fennimore and give residents easy access to Madison, WI 60 miles to the east and Dubuque, IA 40 miles to the south. According to the 2020 census Fennimore's population was 2,501. Grant County's population in 2026 is projected to be 51,785.

Major employment areas in Grant County include: Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Educational Services, Accommodation and Food Services, Manufacturing, Finance and Insurance, and Agriculture. The average commute time for the county is 21 minutes and median household income is $66,858.

Student Demographics and Career Interests

According to 2025-2026 enrollment numbers, Fennimore Community Schools serves a population of about 768 students in northern Grant County. Fennimore Elementary serves 357 students in grades ECH-5. Fennimore Middle School serves 156 students in grades 6-8. Fennimore High School serves 255 students in grades 9-12. Around 40% of students district-wide are economically disadvantaged and 9.5% are minority students.

According to Fennimore Community Schools data derived from Xello in grades 6-12 during the 2025-2026 school year students are most interested in the following employment areas:

- Architecture & Construction
- Health Science
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Human Services
- Education & Training
- Business Management & Administration
- Information Technology
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

Academic and Career Planning Services Provided to Students

Fennimore Middle and High School has developed a comprehensive ACP model to ensure students in grades 6-12 are provided with the resources they need to make informed education and career decisions. This model includes self-assessments, self-exploration, career exploration, portfolio management, community service, career training and experience, and postsecondary education options.

Middle School

All students in grades 6-8 participate in ACP activities and the Second Step Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum for one term during each year of middle school.

The following topics are covered during the ACP portion of the term:

- Introduction to XELLO - online program that helps students transform their aspirations into personalized, actionable plans for academic and career success
- Career Cluster Exploration
- Self Assessments of Career Interests

The following topics are covered during the Second Step guidance portion of the term:

- Mindsets & Goals
- Values & Friendships
- Thoughts, Emotions, & Decisions
- Serious Peer Conflicts

High School

All students in grades 9-12 rotate through required ACP activities during RtI during different points in the school year. Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) team and guidance department lead these activities and training. Opportunities include:

- Creation of electronic portfolios in Xello (ongoing throughout year)
- Scholarship/Financial Aid Night - For seniors and parents in the first quarter. Senior students also receive scholarship instruction in senior English classes.
- Dream Bigger Career Fair
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Career and/or college credit informational meetings during Open House and/or conferences
- Student scheduling meetings and advising
- ACT Prep throughout December, January, and February
- Silver Cord Program - promoting community service opportunities
- College Representatives and Visits
- Armed Forces Representatives
- Youth Apprenticeships
- Job Shadowing
- Industry Field Trips - for students according to career clusters
- Work-based learning experiences

Labor Market Information

Fennimore Community School District utilizes local, regional, and Wisconsin labor market information to assist students in exploring high-demand career pathways and workforce opportunities. Students examine labor market trends, salary expectations, educational requirements, and workforce needs through ACP activities, classroom instruction, career exploration experiences, guest speakers, and district partnerships. Particular emphasis is placed on careers relevant to Southwest Wisconsin workforce needs, including agriculture, healthcare, education, manufacturing, business, skilled trades, and public service careers.

Students are provided opportunities to connect academic planning with future career interests through career exploration tools, career readiness activities, and exposure to regional employment opportunities. Labor market information is incorporated into

student planning discussions to assist students in making informed decisions regarding coursework, postsecondary education, and future employment goals.

Family Engagement

Fennimore Community School District recognizes families as essential partners in the Academic and Career Planning process. Parents and guardians are informed annually regarding ACP services, postsecondary planning opportunities, graduation requirements, and career readiness activities available to students. Families are encouraged to participate in conferences, ACP meetings, financial aid events, scheduling activities, career planning discussions, and postsecondary readiness programming.

The district provides multiple opportunities throughout the school year for families to engage in their child's academic and career planning process. Ongoing communication regarding student progress toward academic and career goals is shared through conferences, school communication systems, counselor meetings, and ACP-related activities.

ACP Curriculum, Support, and Services

Fennimore Community School District provides a comprehensive Academic and Career Planning program for students in grades 6–12. Students participate in developmentally appropriate career awareness, career exploration, academic planning, goal setting, and postsecondary preparation activities aligned with Wisconsin ACP requirements.

The ACP process includes classroom lessons, career exploration activities, academic advising, career interest assessments, goal-setting activities, and postsecondary planning opportunities. School counselors, teachers, advisors, and support staff collaborate to assist students in developing individualized academic and career plans that reflect student interests, strengths, skills, and future goals.

Students are encouraged to regularly review and update their ACP goals and postsecondary plans as they progress through middle school and high school.

Postsecondary Education and Workforce Preparation

Fennimore Community School District provides students with access to career and technical education opportunities, dual credit coursework, college preparation resources, work-based learning experiences, youth apprenticeship opportunities, employability skills instruction, and career readiness activities.

Students are encouraged to explore multiple postsecondary pathways, including technical college education, four-year universities, military service, apprenticeships, workforce entry, and industry credential programs. The district supports student transitions beyond high school by providing opportunities for career exploration, financial aid awareness, workforce readiness instruction, and postsecondary planning.

The district works collaboratively with postsecondary institutions and community partners to ensure students graduate prepared for both postsecondary success and workforce readiness.

Professional Development for Staff

Fennimore Community School District provides ongoing professional development opportunities for staff involved in Academic and Career Planning implementation. Professional learning opportunities may include ACP best practices, labor market information, career readiness standards, postsecondary planning resources, student support strategies, ACP software tools, and workforce development trends.

Staff collaboration supports consistent delivery of ACP services across grade levels and ensures students receive meaningful academic and career planning support throughout their educational experience.

Community Partnerships

Fennimore Community School District values partnerships with local businesses, employers, technical colleges, universities, community organizations, and workforce development agencies. These partnerships provide students with opportunities for career exploration, guest speakers, career fairs, workplace visits, job shadows, youth apprenticeship placements, internships, and other work-based learning experiences.

Community partnerships help connect classroom learning to future career opportunities while supporting student awareness of local and regional workforce needs.

Individualized ACP Support

Students in Fennimore Community School District receive individualized support from school counselors, advisors, teachers, and support staff throughout the Academic and Career Planning process. Staff assist students with course selection, goal setting, career exploration, postsecondary planning, and annual review of academic and career plans.

Individualized support is designed to help students identify strengths, interests, and future goals while developing plans that support successful transitions beyond high school.

Access for All Students

Fennimore Community School District is committed to ensuring equitable access to Academic and Career Planning services for all students. ACP activities and services are designed to support students with disabilities, multilingual learners, and students requiring additional academic, behavioral, or social-emotional support.

When appropriate, ACP planning is coordinated with individualized education programs (IEPs), transition services, and student support teams to ensure all students have opportunities to prepare for postsecondary success. The district works to provide inclusive and accessible ACP opportunities that support the needs of every learner.

Current Progress and Future Goals for Implementation

Fennimore Community School District annually reviews Academic and Career Planning implementation practices, student participation data, postsecondary readiness indicators, and stakeholder feedback to support continuous improvement of ACP services.

The district will continue to strengthen:

- Career exploration opportunities
- Postsecondary planning resources
- Work-based learning experiences
- Community partnerships
- Family engagement opportunities
- Student career readiness outcomes

Future implementation goals include continued expansion of student access to career pathways, workforce readiness experiences, and postsecondary planning opportunities that support successful transitions after graduation.

Access to ACP Software Tool

Students in grades 6–12 have access to the district's Academic and Career Planning software platform to support career exploration, academic planning, goal setting, postsecondary preparation, and portfolio development.

The ACP software tool allows students to:

- Document career interests and goals
- Explore career pathways and postsecondary options
- Track academic progress
- Develop individualized plans for future success
- Maintain career readiness and planning information over time

Families and school staff may also utilize the platform to support student planning, communication, and progress monitoring throughout the Academic and Career Planning process.

ACP Team:
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Resources used to create this document include: ***US Census Bureau Statistics, Grant County Economic Development Corporation, Xello Data, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction***

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