

## “How do you want adults to talk about career exploration?”

**Share Your Opinions and Experiences.** We want your stories—what worked, what didn't, what surprised you. Be honest, even if it's hard to hear. Just don't pressure us or pretend there's one “right” answer or path.

**Be Real About Money.** Money matters. We want to be prepared to live independently and succeed financially. Be honest about salaries, how to manage money, and the cost of education options after high school.

**Give Us More Hands-On Exposure to Careers.** Let us try things. Internships, job shadows, guest speakers, clubs, and real-life experiences make jobs feel real and help us figure out what we like. Give us more access and visibility.

**Help Us Discover and Follow Our Interests.** Ask what we're curious about and what we care about. Support our exploration of what interests us and where we might thrive. Give us space to change our mind.

**Talk Honestly About Trade-Offs and Quality of Life.** Show us how to weigh salary vs. lifestyle. Don't just say “follow your dreams”—be realistic. Help us understand work-life balance, stress levels, and what different career paths really mean.

**Talk With Us, Not At Us.** Tone matters: we want respect, empathy, humor, and patience, especially if we're unsure. Make us feel capable, not overwhelmed. Use words we understand and don't talk over us.

**Focus on the Practical Side of Career Paths.** Tell us how to actually get jobs—during or after college, how to search, apply, network. Give us info on what's out there and how to get there from here.

**Help Us Take One Next Step.** Give us many options. Explain how each opens doors and creates paths to our goals.