



YouScience[®] delivers accurate aptitude awareness

Georgia pilot shows that high school students who know their aptitudes are better prepared to make decisions about their educations and careers.

Background

If high school students know their aptitudes, do they apply them in choosing education and career pathways? That's the question The Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) set out to answer in a statewide pilot of YouScience Aptitude & Career Discovery in Georgia high schools.

The evaluation concludes that, yes, when students use Aptitude & Career Discovery to find their natural abilities to learn or perform in given areas, they use that knowledge in picking their career and education pathways.

Those findings led GOSA and the Technical College System of Georgia to make Aptitude & Career Discovery available to all Georgia public middle and high schools as well as 22 technical colleges starting in 2017. A summary of pilot results is included here.



Goals

Georgia State Senator Lindsey Tippins outlines the goal the pilot targets, which is to identify an online profile to help Georgia high school students discover and apply their aptitudes to education pathway and career choices. The profile chosen for the pilot was Aptitude & Career Discovery.

Major findings

Pilot results show that Aptitude & Career Discovery is effective in improving students' attitudes toward career decisions. It finds that Aptitude & Career Discovery has the largest impact on students' ability to describe their natural talents and identify careers that align with their aptitudes—their self-awareness.

The pilot demonstrates that after taking Aptitude & Career Discovery, students are significantly:

- Better at describing their natural abilities and identifying suitable careers for themselves (self-awareness)
- More confident in making informed career decisions (career decision-making)
- More empowered to follow their future pathways (self-empowerment)
- More likely to explore careers (career exploration)
- More inclined to go after a career pathway and/or additional postsecondary education or training (intent to persist)

Overall, the evaluation of the Aptitude & Career Discovery pilot study shows that students demonstrate improvements in their attitudes toward self and career after taking Aptitude & Career Discovery. Gains are most pronounced among female students with free and reduced priced meal eligibility and students who spend at least 20 minutes reviewing their YouScience Aptitude & Career Discovery results.

The takeaway? Aptitude & Career Discovery works for everyone. It has the greatest impact for students who lack career exposure. And, it's most effective when students spend at least 20 minutes going over their results.

YouScience Aptitude & Career Discovery works

After taking Aptitude & Career Discovery:

80%

say it enhances their college and career readiness

69%

say they're considering a wider range of careers

68%

say they can better identify a college and career pathway

55%

say it significantly helps open their eyes to new career possibilities

About the pilot

The pilot is done by GOSA, which subcontracts with SageFox Consulting Group to administer and analyze the program and its findings.

More than 8,000 10th graders at 51 Georgia high schools, including at least one high school from each of the 16 regional educational service agencies (RESA), participated. Schools in both urban and rural areas are included to reflect the statewide population. The distribution also ensures that the percentage of students with free and reduced price meal eligibility in the pilot is comparable to those eligible statewide.

The pilot evaluates three key areas:

1. To what extent does taking Aptitude & Career Discovery broaden students' vision or awareness of career pathways?
2. Are students more willing to engage in a career pathway because of their Aptitude & Career Discovery results?
3. To what extent does Aptitude & Career Discovery add to students' college and career readiness?

Three data sources are used for each evaluation area: a student survey to gauge perceptions and measure attitudinal growth; an ambassador survey to understand implementation; and state administrative data to understand student demographics. Ambassadors are representatives at each school tasked with helping implement the pilot.

Find the full YouScience Pilot Program, Evaluation Report online.

It includes details and a statistical analysis of the pilot.

“Before I completed YouScience, I had no idea what I wanted to do, or what jobs are out there. Now, I know not only are real jobs waiting for me, but I know which jobs are most likely to be the best fit for me. I don't yet know what I want to do, but I do know that YouScience has helped me. And when it comes time for me to pick a job, it will be easier for me.”

— Student survey respondent

