

Simplified Lesson Supplement

Purpose

Increasingly, middle school students are taught about high school coursework and the importance of making good choices that lead to post-secondary programs and jobs. Many districts are now requiring 8th graders to prepare a complete high school plan, or even a 6-year plan. This lesson helps students understand the local pathways available and the relevance to the student of good coursework choices. This lesson takes students directly to SooperMinds. They may also encounter SooperMinds through WhyPower game play.

Starter Question: *What coursework will you sign up for in high school? Why?*

Procedure

1. Direct students to www.sooperminds.com.
2. Have your students create a Student Account and then login. No personal information is requested.

The first screenshot shows a banner: "The place for fast, grassroots definition of real, local career pathways." with buttons for "See Pathways Now" and "Create An Account". The second screenshot is the "Create Student Profile" form with fields for Username, Password (6 characters minimum), Repeat Password, Teacher Name, School, District, City, and State. The third screenshot is a confirmation message: "Thank you for creating your account. You can now Login. Remember to save your username and password somewhere safe."

3. To explore local pathways, search for your school's zip code. Then click on pathways of interest.

The first screenshot shows the search bar with "78254" entered and a "More Search Options" link. The second screenshot shows "Search Results: Pathways" for zip code 78254, listing items like "Aerospace, Aircraft Mechanic (Airframe)", "Aerospace, Aircraft Mechanic (Powerplant)", "Aerospace, Mechanical or Aerospace Engi", and "BAAS - Information Technology Emphasis". The third screenshot shows a pathway detail for "College Freshman" with a "College Major: Fundamentals of Electronics".

4. Have students mark pathways they like as Favorites with this button:

Make sure students created an account, which is required to record Favorites.

5. If you don't find many local pathways, look for Achieve Texas pathways. (As of this development of this lesson plan, a full set of Achieve Texas IT pathways are in SooperMinds.) Enter *Achieve Texas* in the search field.