A Checklist of Career Development Activities: What Your Students Should Be Doing Year By Year

Grade	Career development activities
9th	 Student takes a career preparation course. Focuses on learning different career areas and the training and job requirements. Develops a career plan. Student completes career interest and working conditions inventories. Analyzes the inventories to determine if career interests match the working conditions associated with the career. Student attends field trips to local businesses to see first-hand the jobs onsite. Student participates in a mentorship program with a local business, if available. Student meets with case manager to create a measurable postsecondary goal for employment that aligns with career interests, preferences, experiences, and capabilities.
10th	 Student completes further career assessments and updates previous ones. Student participates in career explorations related to his or her career interests. Takes part in a job shadow for 1 day, 2 weeks during an academic seminar time, or a quarter if student's course load allows it. Completes the job shadow business' job application. Student takes a social skills class to learn the social aspects of job sites. Student attends college and career fairs at school. Representatives from apprenticeship programs and vocational/technical schools attend these, in addition to representatives from colleges. Student observes a vocational course in high school related to career interests. Determines if he or she can enroll in it for junior year. Student meets with case manager to update measurable postsecondary goal for employment.
11th	 Student updates career assessments and career plan. Student attends a work experience class that provides volunteer hours in businesses related to student's career interests. Attempts to rotate through two or three different businesses and different jobs at each business. Participates in mock interviews related to each of these jobs. Student participates in a vocational/technical course in high school related to career interests. Student seeks a part-time, after-school, or summer job in addition to volunteer experiences. Student meets with case manager to narrow career goals based on work experiences.
12th	 Student updates career assessments to narrow interests. Student considers dual enrollment at the community college or local technical school to participate in coursework aligned with his or her career choices. Student attends college and career fairs at school. Views college departments that align with chosen careers; determines the type of training provided. Students apply to a community college, 4-year college program, or vocational/technical school based on which one provides the program best suited to career interests, preferences, needs, and strengths. Education and training after high school is often necessary to obtain a career position. Student meets with case manager to prepare for what accommodations will be needed in a job setting. Assists with developing his or her Summary of Performance so that he or she is aware of the accommodations that will be helpful on the job.

Figure 8.2. A checklist of career development activities: What your students should be doing year by year.