

Skilled Trades Career Session Outline

A student-engaging speaking session that helps schools guide students from career curiosity to real trade pathways: training, apprenticeships, credentials, and first job steps.

Format Options	Assembly (45–60 min) • Workshop (60–90 min) • Cohort series (multi-session)
Delivery	Virtual or in-person
Built for	Title I schools • high-caseload counseling environments
Focus	High-demand skilled trades across healthcare, tech, construction, hospitality & more
Student data	Not required

What students learn

- What “skilled trades” actually include (beyond construction) and why demand is rising
- How to match interests to trade pathways (hands-on, technical, service, creative)
- Training routes: certificates, technical programs, apprenticeships, and paid learn-and-earn options
- How to evaluate programs (cost, time, placement rates, credentials, and local employer demand)
- A 30–90 day next-step plan: who to contact, what to apply for, and what to complete first

Trades & pathways we cover (examples)

- Healthcare: surgical tech, EMT, patient care, sterile processing
- Technology: AV tech, fiber/network technician, IT support pathways
- Construction & infrastructure: electrician, HVAC, plumbing, carpentry
- Automotive & aviation: EV tech, diesel tech, aircraft mechanic
- Hospitality & services: culinary/pastry, cosmetology, facilities operations

How schools use it

- CTE and pathway programs (career awareness → exploration → readiness)
- Senior transition programming and post-grad planning support
- College & career week assemblies and parent/student events
- Targeted cohorts (seniors, career-changers, ESE/ELL supports, first-gen)

Why counselors like it

- Reinforces existing plans and tools (e.g., Xello) with a clear “next steps” bridge after graduation
- No student data required; easy to run as an assembly or workshop
- Reduces repetitive “what do I do next?” conversations by standardizing a framework
- Students leave with actionable steps and confidence—not just interest

Suggested agenda (sample 60 minutes)

0–10 min	Mindset + reality check: what trade careers look like today (pay, growth, mobility)
10–25 min	Pathways map: certificates, apprenticeships, union routes, employer-sponsored training
25–40 min	Decision framework: picking a trade + pathway based on fit, timeline, and ROI
40–55 min	Action plan: next 7–30 days (applications, site visits, requirements, checklists)
55–60 min	Q&A + counselor handoff (resources + follow-up options)

Outcomes schools can expect

- Students leave with a clear trade pathway and a short checklist of next actions
- Higher engagement in CTE/counselor follow-ups because students know what to do next
- More informed family conversations about post-grad options beyond a 4-year degree

Scheduling & next steps

Submit a booking request and we'll reply within 1 business day with availability, format options, and simple vendor/procurement steps (if needed).