



CIPSI Career Interests, Preferences, and Strengths Inventory

User Manual

Gary M. Clark

Katherine O. Synatschk

James R. Patton

Lawrence E. Steel



8700 Shoal Creek Boulevard Austin, Texas 78757-6897 800/897-3202 www.proedinc.com



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We also want to thank the students who are using the CIPSI and participated in the field-testing. We appreciate your contributions as well.



Preparing students for life after high school is an exciting and worthwhile objective for professionals in schools today. As educators, we expect our students to be prepared to make successful transitions within our educational system and, upon leaving our K-12 institutions, to work or further education. Career planning can help students and families achieve these expectations.

Backdrop for Career Planning

Federal law and various national standards support and guide career planning for all students. These major supports are discussed below.

School-to-Work Opportunities Act and Goals 2000: Educate America Act

Some legislation supports school-to-work transition services for all students. The School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994, coupled with the Goals 2000: Educate America Act of 1994, prompted school-based education that is tied to employment and other adult outcomes.

National Career Development Guidelines and National Standards for School Counseling Programs

National standards have been developed to guide career planning for all students. The National Career Development Guidelines (America's Career Resource Network, 2004) provide a framework of knowledge and skills that young people need to manage their careers effectively. Standard A of the National Standards for School Counseling Programs, established by the American School Counselor Association (Campbell & Dahir, 1997), specifies that students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

In 2004, Congress updated the nation's special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), seeking to improve transition planning for students with disabilities. To strengthen transition planning, several assessment-related requirements were added to IDEA.

IDEA 2004 requires that transition services be based on the student's strengths as well as his or her preferences, interests, and needs. The Act also includes a provision specifying that schools use age-appropriate assessments in the areas of employment, education, training, and when appropriate, life skills. Activities developed for transition services must be part of a results-oriented process, to ensure that these activities produce success for the individual. IDEA 2004's federal regulations make it clear that Individualized Education

Plan (IEP) teams are free to begin transition planning at an age younger than 16, if the team determines it is appropriate to do so. Many students with disabilities can benefit from transition planning activities that begin in middle school, and a number of states begin transition planning when students reach age 14.

Although it is challenging to facilitate the career development of every student, the task is achievable and, like so many things in life, it is a journey that begins with one small step.

The Importance of Exploration

The process of career development begins with the small step of career awareness, which leads to career exploration and, eventually, career planning. This developmental process builds on the student's knowledge of self, knowledge of career information, skills, attitudes, and experiences. According to Pellegrino (2006), "Students come with preconceptions about how the world works which includes beliefs and prior knowledge acquired through various experiences" (p. 3). Unfortunately, these preconceptions, particularly concerning the nature and structure of the world of education and work, are often incomplete, inaccurate, and stereotypical. Therefore, before we ask students to have well-developed plans for the future, we must enrich their knowledge, skills, and experiences so they have ample data to set appropriate goals for the future.

Career awareness and career exploration are two steps of the process that are best begun early and repeated often. These steps require time and attention beginning in elementary school and should be revisited in middle and high school. Table 1 illustrates a recommended planning process that follows the sequence of awareness, exploration, and planning.

Time spent on exploration is a great investment in students' abilities to eventually make good, appropriate plans for themselves. The process goes like this:

- 1. In the first step, students learn about themselves—their interests, preferences, and strengths—before learning about the world of work.
- 2. Next, students become aware of how careers are organized by similarities.
- **3.** Finally, once they have been assisted through the process of aligning what they have learned about themselves with the possibilities in the world of work, they have a relevant set of careers to begin to explore.

Throughout the career awareness and exploration steps, we avoid hard and fast decisions about career selection, keeping all options open as the student explores.

A System for Organizing Careers—Career Clusters

The U.S. Department of Education's Career Clusters—groups of occupations and broad industries that share certain features—are organized into 16 broad categories that encompass virtually all occupations, from entry through professional levels. Career Clusters identify the knowledge and skills needed to follow a pathway toward career goals and provide a context for exploring the many occupational options available. Each Cluster is divided into different pathways, which are grouped by the knowledge and skills required for occupations in these career fields. The Architecture and Construction Cluster, for example, includes architects, carpenters, and electricians. Each of the 16 Clusters is explained below (U.S. Department of Education, 2000).

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources—producing, processing, marketing, distributing, financing, and developing agricultural commodities and resources, including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources
- Architecture and Construction—designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications—designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content, including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services
- Business Management and Administration—planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations
- Education and Training—planning, managing, and providing education and training services and related learning support services, such as administration, teaching/training, administrative support, and professional support services
- **Finance**—planning and related services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management
- Government and Public Administration—planning and executing government functions at the local, state, and federal levels, including governance, national security, foreign service, planning, revenue and taxation, and regulations
- Health Science—planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development
- Hospitality and Tourism—planning, managing, and providing restaurant and food/beverage services, lodging, travel and tourism, recreation, amusement, and attractions
- Human Services—planning, managing, and providing services related to families
 and human needs, such as counseling and mental health services, family and community services, personal care, and consumer services
- **Information Technology**—designing, developing, supporting, and managing hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security—planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services
- Manufacturing—planning, managing, and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities, such as production planning and control, maintenance, and manufacturing/process engineering
- Marketing—planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives, such as brand management, professional sales, merchandising, marketing communications, and market research
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services, including laboratory and testing services and research and development services

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics—planning, managing, and moving people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water and related professional and technical support services, such as transportation, infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment, and facility maintenance

Basing career awareness and exploration efforts on the 16 Career Clusters allows students to identify a broad grouping of careers that matches their interests and offers a wide array of educational requirements. Programs of study are increasingly being aligned with the 16 Career Clusters, to guide students' high school and college experiences.

Table 1 Career Planning Process

Grade Level	Student Outcomes
Elementary school	Awareness of Interests Career Clusters Values Sources for information
Middle school	 Exploration of More in-depth information about careers Interests, strengths, and preferences The relationship of coursework and school learning opportunities to occupations Job shadowing experiences, mentors
High school	Planning for Opportunities to fine-tune their interests, strengths, and preferences through coursework and extracurricular activities Opportunities to enhance their employability skills Detailed career information searches Opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and paid employment

Primary Purpose and Development of the CIPSI

The Career Interests, Preferences, and Strengths Inventory (CIPSI) has been developed to provide four exploration experiences for all students beginning the career planning process. The CIPSI offers a system to help students examine their personal interests, strengths, and general preferences in relation to the Career Clusters. Once students have focused on these factors, they can combine the results to explore careers that align across interests and strengths.

Based on analyses of the descriptions of interests, skills, and knowledge related to the occupations making up each of the 16 Career Clusters, items for each of the CIPSI surveys were developed. Items were selected on the basis of being relevant for students, being discretely aligned with the Career Clusters, and being representative of a range of occupations, from entry-level to professional-level skills. Survey items were field-tested with

students from fifth grade through college and were reviewed by a number of professionals, including teachers of students with disabilities, teachers in general education, transition specialists, career counseling professionals, and professional school counselors. The reading level of the items was adjusted as necessary to increase readability. Both the computerized version and the paper-and-pencil version of the CIPSI surveys were used with students in the field tests.

Description and Uses of the CIPSI

The CIPSI is an informal tool for beginning the personal assessment and career exploration process with students from fifth grade through high school graduation. The CIPSI takes into account personal interests, strengths, general preferences, and favored careers and aligns the students' choices with the U.S. Department of Education's 16 Career Clusters. Students may examine each of these facets separately, and then in combination, so they can begin to explore the careers within the Clusters that most reflect their interests and strengths. Students identify and learn about the Career Clusters most relevant to them in four separate surveys: the Personal Interests Survey, the Strengths Survey, the General Preferences Survey, and the Careers Survey. The four surveys include short, low-reading-level items that represent careers requiring a broad range of educational and training levels.

The CIPSI can be administered to individuals or groups with either the computerized or the paper-and-pencil version. Uses of the CIPSI include the following:

- Examining the student's personal interests, general preferences, and strengths in one set of surveys
- Encouraging early exploration for students in middle school
- Allowing high school students to obtain information to develop a career choice action plan
- Generating information for employment and training goals for IEPs

The CIPSI is designed to facilitate the beginning steps of career awareness and career exploration by helping students reflect on their personal interests, strengths, and general preferences. Figure 1 illustrates the CIPSI Process. This process begins with the administration of each of the four surveys that are part of the CIPSI. After each survey is completed, students are invited to analyze how their responses align with the 16 Career Clusters. After students complete all four surveys, they can view a Summary Report that combines the results of the separate surveys. In-depth career exploration activities can follow using the Explore Careers Activities. Finally, students can use the Plan for Careers Activities for future planning.

Personal Interests Survey

The Personal Interests Survey allows the student to select items of interest from everyday life at school, at home, and in the community. Interests express what we find intrinsically motivating (Ryan & Deci, 2000), and vocational interests have long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of career counseling (Kuder, 1939; Strong, 1927). If you want to know what decisions young people will make regarding courses, colleges, and careers, talk to them about their interests (Gysbers & Lapan, 2009). Whiston (2008) found that interest inventories are even better predictors of occupational choice than are expressed interests.

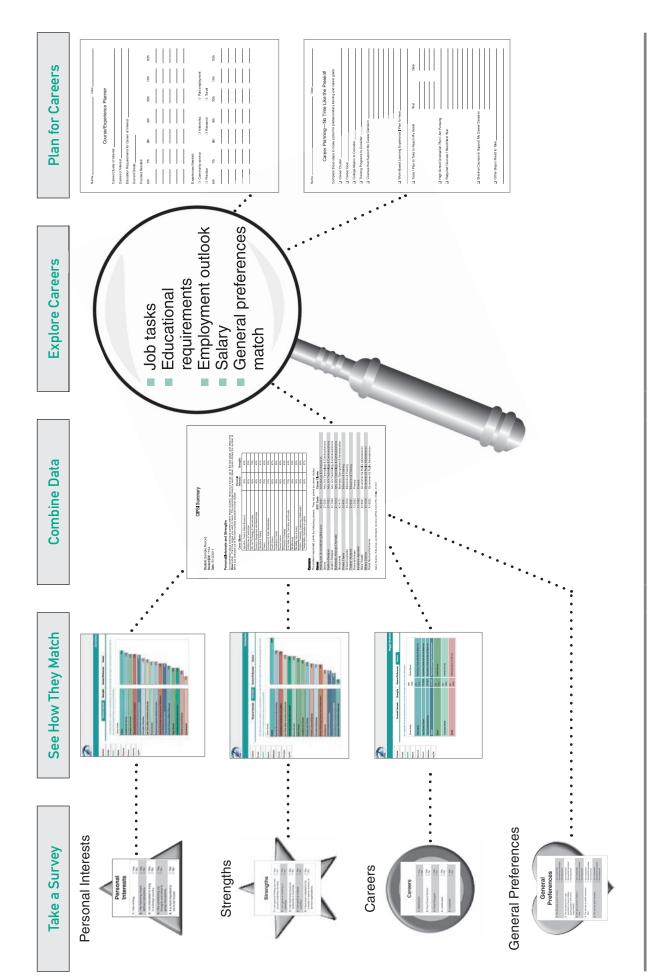


Figure 1. CIPSI Process.

In the Personal Interests Survey, students are asked to select a yes-or-no response to 69 items, such as "I like helping people with their problems" or "I like taking things apart and seeing how they work." All items must be completed to generate a Personal Interests Report. Students may re-enter the survey at any time and adjust their responses as needed.

Strengths Survey

The Strengths Survey assesses students' perceptions of their strengths in school- and community-based activities. The results from this survey reveal students' strengths, even if they are not so apparent in the academic environment. This survey presents students with items to help them indicate their strengths in relation to various abilities and skills associated with the world of work. The items reflect the students' assessment of their general strengths related to demands such as reading, writing, perceptual abilities, manual dexterity, leadership, and the ability to understand and follow directions. They also reflect selected specific strengths related to demands such as drawing, painting, performing (music, dance, or theater), organizing, or using tools or machinery.

In the Strengths Survey, students are asked to select a yes-or-no response to 88 items, such as "I am good at paying attention to details" or "I am good at using maps, charts, graphs, and tables." All items must be completed to generate a Strengths Report. Students may re-enter the survey at any time and adjust their responses as needed.

General Preferences Survey

This survey allows students to demonstrate their preferences regarding work-related values that cut across the 16 Career Clusters. When the students are aware of their preferences, they are able to better discriminate among careers and make more appropriate choices for themselves.

In the General Preferences Survey, students are asked to select Very Important, Somewhat Important, or Not Important for 19 items, such as "The job allows me to make important decisions," "This job is outdoors," or "The job allows me to learn new skills and improve myself." All items must be completed to generate a General Preferences Report. Students may re-enter the survey at any time and adjust their responses as needed.

Careers Survey

This survey presents students with commonly recognized careers and asks them to note their interest in each career with a yes-or-no response. While the list is certainly not exhaustive given the thousands of job titles in existence, it presents an opportunity to gauge any interest the student may have in that or a related career. It contributes some additional information to the picture the student presents, along with stated personal interests, strengths, and general preferences.

In the Careers Survey, students are asked to select a yes-or-no response for 65 items, such as "Engineer," "Landscaper," "Doctor," or "Teacher." With each completed survey, students are provided a list of 20 additional careers as examples from their Career Cluster of interest. Further exploration of each of these careers leads to numerous additional careers. All items must be completed to show the survey as complete and to generate a Careers Report. Students may re-enter the survey at any time and adjust their responses as needed.

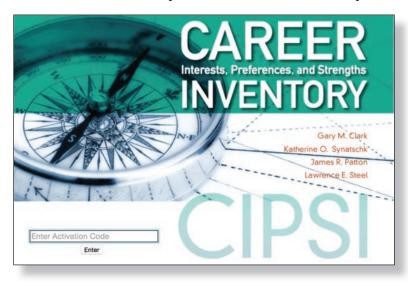
In the following chapters, we provide a manual for the administration and implementation of the CIPSI. In Chapter 2, we discuss activation and start-up procedures for the CIPSI. A discussion of the administrative reports follows. In Chapter 3, we discuss using the CIPSI for career exploration and provide in-depth information about each of the surveys and reports students may receive. We discuss using the CIPSI results for individual guidance, IEP planning, and group guidance. Finally, follow-up and extension activities are described.

It is a challenge to facilitate the career development of every student. It is our desire that the CIPSI materials will help you and your students take these first steps.



Activating Your CIPSI Account

Once you have purchased a license for CIPSI, you will receive an e-mail message that includes a URL and an Activation Code. The CIPSI license is active for 12 months from the Date of Activation. All student seats expire at the time of the license expiration.



- 1. Follow the link to the Activation screen.
- 2. Enter the Activation Code (the 16-digit code unique to your order).
- 3. Click to Accept the License and Create an Account for CIPSI.
- **4.** Enter your name, create a User ID, and Password (Passwords are case sensitive.).
- 5. Enter your email address.
- **6.** Click Register Code.
- 7. Click to go to the CIPSI home page and Sign In to your account. Please bookmark the Sign In page for future use.

Signing In to Your CIPSI Account

- Go to the CIPSI **Sign In** screen.
- Enter your User ID and Password.
- Click on Sign In.



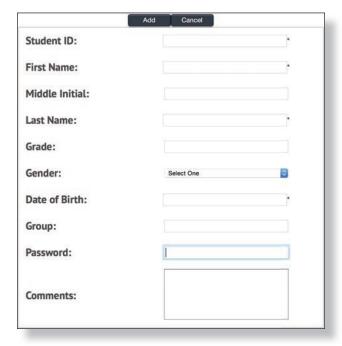
- The Student List screen appears.
- To change the Administrator password, select **Account** on the Navigation bar on the Student List screen. Click on , enter new information, and click **Update**.

Adding Students to the CIPSI Account

To add an individual student, click the **Add User** tab on the Student List screen.



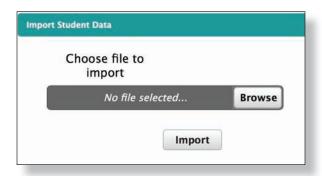
- Complete all fields. Required fields have an asterisk. Use the Group field to place students in a grouping useful in your setting, for example, Transition Team or Advisory Group. Use the Comments field to include information you would like displayed in the Summary Report, such as test scores or internship experiences. Student passwords are generated automatically when a new student record is created and can be changed only by the Administrator, from the Student List screen.
- Click Add to save the record.



To add multiple students, import student names from a preexisting data file. Click the **Import Users** tab on the Student List screen.



Browse to select your file.

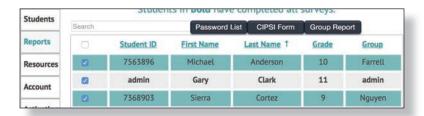


- The CIPSI program will Import the following fields: Student Id #, First Name, MI, Last Name, Grade, Gender, and Group. The number of remaining licenses is displayed in the blue band at the top of the Student List screen and the Add Student screen.
- To edit a Student's record, click on ∠, enter new information in editable fields and select **Update**.

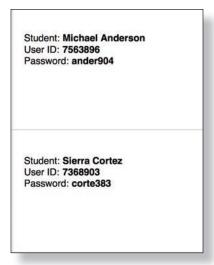
Printing the Password List

Provide Sign In information for each student with the Password List report.

- Click **Reports** on the Navigation bar on the Student List screen.
- Click the box to the left of specific students who will receive a Password card, or click the box to the left of Student ID to include all students.
- Click the **Password List** tab, then click **here** to print and view the Password cards.



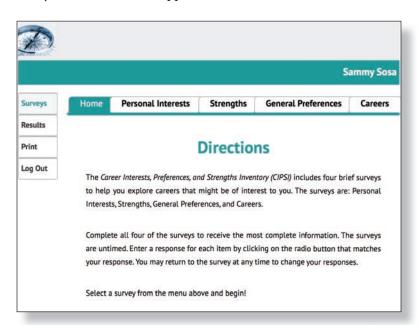




- Use your browser's Print function to print preperforated card sheets and distribute cards to students.
- Click the **OK** button or the "X" to close **Print Password List** box.

Signing In as a Student

- Give students the URL to the CIPSI Sign In screen, their User ID, and password.
- Have students go to the CIPSI Sign In screen.
- Have students enter their User ID and Password.
- Click on Sign In.
- The Survey Directions screen appears.

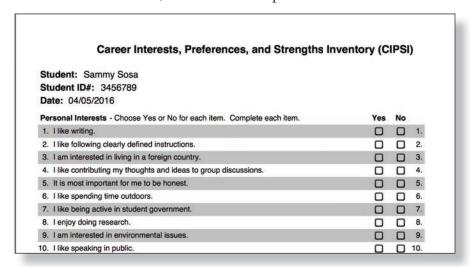


Once signed in, students have access to their CIPSI surveys, and completed survey results and reports are available. When the four surveys are completed, the student's name appears in boldface type in the Student List, and the Summary Report and Interpretive Report can be viewed, e-mailed, and printed.

Printing the Paper CIPSI Form

One way to provide a print alternative to the online CIPSI is with the CIPSI Form. The CIPSI Form is a personalized paper response protocol for all selected students. The CIPSI Form will display each student's name, identification number, and the date the form was created.

- Click Reports on the Navigation bar of the Student List screen.
- Click the box to the left of **specific students** to receive a print CIPSI Form or click the box to the left of Student ID to include all students.
- Click on **CIPSI Form** tab, then click **here** to print.



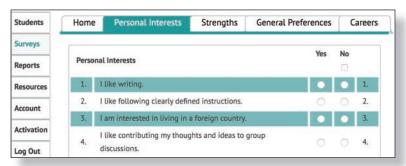
• Click your browser's **Print** function to print.

An alternative to printing forms is to purchase #14254 CIPSI Inventory Booklets (pack of 25) for preprinted booklet of the four surveys.

Data Entry From the CIPSI Form

After administering the preprinted or self-printed CIPSI Form, administrators can enter student responses quickly from the Student List screen.

- Click on <u>student's name.</u>
- Select the appropriate Survey tab.
- Click the box beside the **No** response. Click **OK.** All responses will then be shown as No. The default choice for the General Preferences survey is Not Important.



- Click **Yes** for the items the student answered as Yes.
- Click Save Responses button.

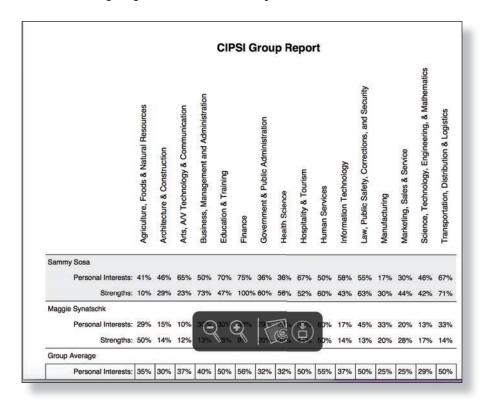
Printing Student Reports

- Click the in the Actions column by the student's name.
- Choose from the selection of Student Reports.
- Click your browser's Print function to print.

Generating the CIPSI Group Report

Compare selected students' strengths and interests to customize group instruction by focusing on careers that may be of interest to many students in the group. The report displays and generates group averages for students' personal interests and strengths in each of the 16 Career Clusters.

- Click **Reports** on the Navigation bar on the Student List screen.
- Click the box to the left of specific students to be included in a Group Report, or click the box to the left of Student ID to include all students.
- Click the **Group Report** tab, click **here** to print.

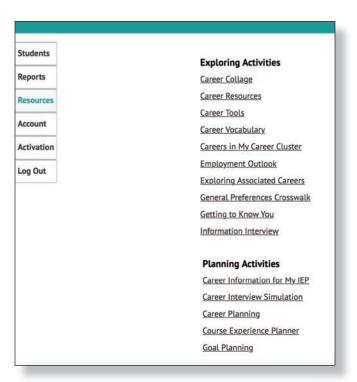


• Click your browser's **Print** function to print.

Accessing CIPSI Resources

Promote exploration and planning skills with the CIPSI Resources. There are 10 Exploration and 5 Planning Activities for use with your students using the CIPSI.

- Click Resources on the Navigation bar on the Student List screen.
- Click on the desired activity's title.
- Use your browser's **Print** function to print.



Adding Seats to Your CIPSI License

After purchasing additional seats for your CIPSI license, you will receive an e-mail message that includes a URL and an Activation code.

- 1. If you are adding seats to your **existing** account, follow **your usual link** to **the Sign In** screen, sign in with your ID and password, and click on **Sign In**.
- 2. Select **Activation** on the Navigation bar on the Student List screen.
- 3. Click **Add New Code**. Enter the new Activation code.
- 4. Click Add.

Newly added seats will have an expiration date 12 months from the date activated. **Note** any remaining seats on previous licenses and plan to use them before expiration.

CIPSI License Expiration

All licenses expire 12 months from the date of activation. To check expiration dates:

- 1. Sign In
- **2.** Click on **Activation** on the Navigation bar and note the Expiration Date for the license(s) in your account.

After the license has expired, Admin Users are able to Sign In and access Student Reports only. After expiration, reports can be downloaded, e-mailed, or printed. No changes can be made to the Student Record or survey choices after expiration.

The Career Interests, Preferences, and Strengths Inventory (CIPSI) is a tool that facilitates career awareness and exploration by helping students examine their personal interests, strengths, and general preferences, along with their interests in particular careers. Students' responses are compared to the interest and strength profiles of the 16 Career Clusters, which were created by the U.S. Department of Education to help job seekers know what careers are available and how to prepare for them.

Informal Assessment for Career Planning

The CIPSI is an example of an informal assessment that helps students manage the transition from school to postsecondary education and career planning. Informal assessments are desirable because of their subjective flexibility (Clark, 2007). In the CIPSI, students reflect on their interests, preferences, strengths, and values, and their responses are compared to the Career Cluster profiles. As students' interests, preferences, and values change, so can their CIPSI results. Increases in knowledge and awareness can be reflected in the program's results. Informal assessments are well suited to frequent use.

The content validity of the CIPSI is based on the degree to which the items align with documented descriptions of the Career Cluster profiles. Because the CIPSI is based on the established descriptions of the 16 Career Clusters created by the U.S. Department of Education and the descriptions of careers made available from the U.S. Department of Labor and verified by career professionals, the CIPSI has content validity.

Student Reports

When students complete all responses in an individual CIPSI survey, they can print a report for that particular survey. Once all four surveys have been completed, the Summary Report becomes available. As students exit a completed survey, they can click on Results on the navigation bar. When all four surveys have been completed, they will be able to view the Summary. Administrators can print reports by selecting by the student's name from the Student List screen. Each of the survey options is described in the following sections.

Personal Interests Report

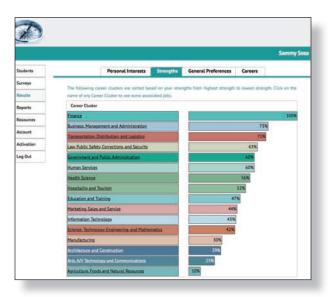
This report sorts the Career Clusters based on the student's personal interests, from highest interest to lowest interest, and shows the Yes responses selected by the student. The percentage listed by each Career Cluster reflects the number of the student's indicated interests out of the total interests possible for that Cluster. When the title is selected, the Personal Interests—Related Careers Report, which displays 20 jobs within that Cluster with SOC Codes and minimum education requirements, displays. The report may be printed by selecting by the student's name and click on Personal Interests.





Strengths Report

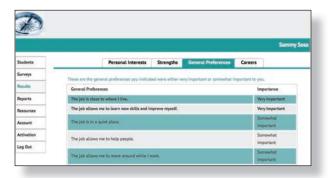
This report sorts the Career Clusters based on the student's self-reported strengths, from highest to lowest, and shows the Yes responses selected by the student. The percentage listed by each Career Cluster reflects the number of the student's indicated strengths out of the total strengths possible for that Cluster. When the title is selected, The Strengths–Related Careers Report, which displays 20 jobs within that Cluster with SOC Codes and minimum education requirements, is generated. More extensive information may be viewed by selecting any occupation title. The report may be printed by selecting by the student's name and clicking on Strengths.





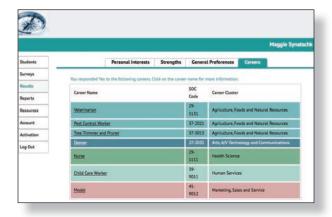
General Preferences Report

This report shows general preferences that the student rated as either Very Important or Somewhat Important. The responses are sorted according to importance. The report may be printed by selecting \sqsubseteq by the student's name and clicking on General Preferences.



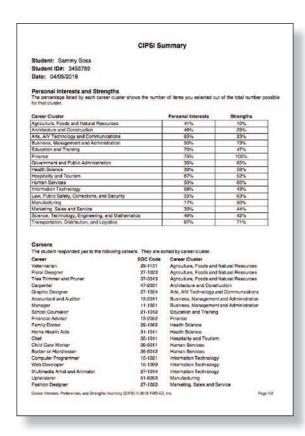
Careers Report

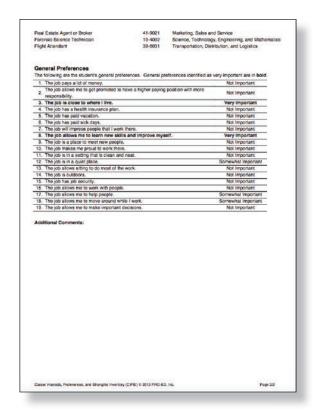
This report shows the career titles for which the student indicated an interest, sorted alphabetically by Career Cluster. Listed also are the SOC Codes for each career to facilitate obtaining further information. More extensive information may be viewed by selecting by the student's name and clicking on Careers.



Summary Report

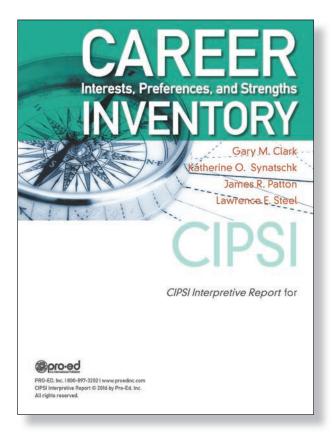
This report becomes available after the student has completed all four surveys. After clicking and selecting Summary, the Summary is presented. The Summary Report compiles all CIPSI data into one report. The report first displays a table that compares the student's personal interests and strengths percentages to the 16 Career Clusters. The next section displays careers that received Yes responses. The last section shows general preferences; Very Important general preferences are in boldface type.





CIPSI Interpretive Report

With the four surveys completed, the student is given the option of viewing the CIPSI Interpretive Report and receiving a copy via email. The Interpretive Report illustrates the results of the four surveys and the CIPSI summary, and allows the student to access career cluster information, occupations, and extensive information about the occupation.



Using CIPSI Results

Once students have completed the CIPSI surveys, it is important to help them understand the results indicated by their responses. The primary goal of the CIPSI is to indicate areas for further exploration. Students should be encouraged to review the data, decide if it fits them, and make plans for more investigation.

Individual Guidance

The foundation for student planning is established during the elementary school years through guidance activities. Self-concept development, interpersonal relationship skill development, decision-making skill building, and awareness and beginning exploration of educational and occupational possibilities are subjects to be covered during these years. These subjects should continue to be covered during middle and high school, providing new information and experiences to enable students to regularly update, monitor, and manage their plans effectively.

Different students have different levels of familiarity with career vocabulary and terminology. If students have limited knowledge of terms, they may choose responses that result in interests or strengths profiles that surprise them. These students may discover career interests they were not aware of; however, if the results seem to not fit the student, it may be useful to revisit survey responses with the student to determine and adjust responses to affect the results. Another option is to try alternative interest assessments.

Individual guidance allows students to see that their everyday interests and non-academic strengths have real connections to possible careers. When students can begin to think of themselves as fitting a career or a Career Cluster, the school courses and extracurricular activities needed to achieve those career goals seem much more relevant. Students who have experienced career guidance activities do better in school and in their educational and occupational transitions (Lapan, Aoyagi, & Kayson, 2007).

IEP Planning

Depending on your state or local policies, transition planning may begin in the IEP at age 14 or 16. The IEP must include a student's postsecondary outcome goals in the areas of employment, education, training, and when appropriate, life skills for independent or supported living. CIPSI's assessment results yield information directly related to an employment postsecondary outcome goal and an education and training postsecondary outcome goal.

The younger a student is, the less likely his or her CIPSI results will remain consistent for the next 2 or 3 years of schooling. But for students who do not have any previously developed ideas about work or further education and training after leaving school, the results may be used as starting points for planning. CIPSI results for older students should be viewed with more confidence, and IEP goals and recommended actions or services should be more obvious.

The IEP should include any annual goals related to the achievement of a student's postsecondary outcome goals. It should also specify actions the IEP team recommends. Goals and recommendations should be directly related to such things as the student's course of study, knowledge for career decision making, employment preparation, and development of needed skills in self-determination (including self-advocacy), communication skills, and skills in interpersonal relationships.

Completing the Plan for Careers Activities, for example, will inform the student, family, and others on the IEP team about possible appropriate goals or actions that would promote success in the student's postsecondary outcome goals. If the school has classes for career awareness and exploration, these are ideal courses for students needing extensive opportunities to learn more about themselves and options in the world of work. Clubs, organizations, and skills/interest groups may be used as alternatives or supplements to coursework. In some instances, individual guidance activities or services may be recommended in the IEP through the school counseling program, mentor programs, or related services.

The IEP team may find further assessment is needed for students to explore their interests, preferences, strengths, and needs in developing and planning for postsecondary outcome goals. Keep in mind that adolescents, both with and without disabilities, change their perspectives on life and the future from year to year; thus, repeated assessments with the CIPSI and related instruments are appropriate. The IEP can specify such ongoing assessment annually.

Follow-Up and Extension Activities

After students have completed the four surveys that make up the CIPSI, they will receive the information necessary to examine how their personal interests, strengths, and general preferences align with the 16 Career Clusters. In Figure 1 (see Chapter 1), we show the sequence of the CIPSI process.

Exploring Careers Activities

Once students have found Career Clusters of interest, they may wish to identify the careers within Clusters in which they are most interested. These become excellent careers to explore further. CIPSI includes 10 reproducible activities to provide a format for further exploration, click *Resources* from the Navigation bar, then choose among the Exploring Activities.

Planning for Careers Activities

As students become more familiar with their careers of interest through extensive exploration, they may be ready to begin setting goals and making plans to achieve those goals. CIPSI includes five reproducible activities to provide a format for planning. Click *Resources* from the Navigation bar, then choose among the Planning Activities.

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About the Authors

Gary M. Clark, EdD, Professor Emeritus, was on the University of Kansas, Department of Special Education, faculty from 1970–2008. His professional interests currently focus on assessment for transition planning. He can be reached at gclark@ku.edu.

Katherine O. Synatschk, PhD, LPCS, has been the director of counseling for a large, urban school district, a school counselor, and a high school special education teacher. Currently, she is an adjunct associate professor at Texas State University, Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology and the Executive Editor at PRO-ED, Inc. Her professional interests include transition, solution-focused counseling, and self-regulation. She can be reached at ksynatschk@proedinc.com.

James R. Patton, EdD, is an independent consultant and adjunct associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Special Education. Some of his professional interests include real-life skills instruction, transition assessment, and individuals with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system. He can be reached at jpatton@austin.rr.com.

Lawrence E. Steel is a high school special services teacher for the Howard County Public School System in Maryland. He often creates productivity software programs to help fellow educators and school administrators streamline paperwork tasks. He also creates scoring and reporting software for various standardized assessments. He can be reached at tsteel@gmail.com.