

# Design Principles

The Design Principles translate insights from the [Striving to Thriving](#) research into a set of recommendations intended for use across a variety of organizations and functional roles including program design, research, grantmaking and messaging.

The principles are part of the Designing Pathways with Young People Toolkit, a collection of resources and tools that translate research insights into actionable guidance for people working to improve education outcomes for young people. The toolkit can help you center the emotional and lived experiences of young people in programmatic approaches to designing or influencing career pathways. To learn more visit [equitablefutures.org/toolkit-designing-pathways-with-young-people](https://equitablefutures.org/toolkit-designing-pathways-with-young-people).



## CENTER YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are engaged as co-designers of policies and programs, rather than just participants, and adults serve as guides rather than gatekeepers.



## ADVANCE EQUITY AT AN INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS LEVEL

Programs, research and policies pursue equitable outcomes for individual communities of young people while also working to dismantle systemic barriers to a more equitable future.



## FOSTER CONNECTIONS AND BUILD NETWORKS

Young people have opportunities to access and cultivate diverse professional networks and expand peer connections.



## ILLUMINATE AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL EXPLORATION OF CAREER PATHWAYS

Young people learn about, explore and experience a diversity of career pathways, which enables them to reach their vision of a good life.