



Career-Technical Education

WHAT IS CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

By law, every Ohio high school student has the opportunity to enroll in career-technical education programs.

This means that in addition to the standard academic requirements, students take specific classes in their chosen career field. This specialized education is delivered through career centers or in local high schools. Many career-technical planning districts also offer adult workforce education through Ohio Technical Centers, which fall under the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

CTE FAST FACTS*

127,785

High School CTE Students

22%

Students who earned 12 industry credential points

22,021

*CTE Adult Students in Technical and General Programs at Ohio Technical Centers***

Expanding Career-Technical Education (CTE) Opportunities

- ◆ As Ohio's economy continues to rebound and expand, new careers are emerging. Career-technical educators prepare high school and adult students for the many high-skilled, increasingly technical jobs that are essential for today's economy, yet often go unfilled.
- ◆ Ohio's career-technical educators are committed to expanding career-tech programming to reach many more students. CTE programs in the middle grades help expose students at an early age to opportunities that they might not otherwise know about. The renewed emphasis on career exploration and awareness will help all students understand the many new career choices and education pathways available to them. Career-technical educators are instrumental in helping students explore in demand, satisfying, yet often overlooked, career choices that amplify earning potential.

It's About Ohio Jobs

An Ohio Competitive Advantage

- ◆ Ohio is one of the few states in the nation with a comprehensive career-technical education system. Ohio's CTE system was established in the 1940s with "vocational" facilities across the state to prepare and educate the workforce. Today, Ohio's modern CTE system is highly advanced, with a 21st Century curriculum enabling high school and adult students to obtain highly technical and specialized skills. CTE programs are available to 100% of Ohio's public high school students.
- ◆ There are 51 Ohio Technical Centers (Adult Career Centers) integrated within Ohio's 89 Career and Technical Education Planning Districts (CTPD).
- ◆ Career technical education is in tune with local economic and student needs. Though CTE is part of public education, it is a *program of choice* for high school students and their parents.
- ◆ Because CTE relies on voluntary student enrollments and the ability to place students into high-demand occupations, CTE is responsive to the needs of *business and industry partners*, who often serve on advisory boards, provide students work based learning opportunities and inform curriculum.
- ◆ CTE provides multiple education pathways that emphasize high quality career and college readiness.

A Smart Investment

- ◆ CTE offers high school programs that meet the needs of the local economy. High school students enter the job market with credentials making good wages and are prepared to be successful in college.
- ◆ Adult education programs range from two-week certificate classes to longer term credentialing programs, as well as customized training for business and industry partners.

***Source: Ohio Department of Education and **Ohio Department of Higher Education*



BUILDING OHIO'S WORKFORCE

Career-Technical Education

The CTE community will focus on the following policy priorities during the 2022 legislative session:

1) SB 166 Implementation: Passed unanimously by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor DeWine in December of 2021 (effective March 23, 2022) SB 166 (in part) establishes tax and insurance incentives for employers that offer work-based learning opportunities to high school career-tech students. CTE leaders seek to ensure robust participation within the business community and full utilization of SB 166. The CTE associations will support state agencies as they work to implement the incentive programs, and seek to emphasize the following:

- Efficient approval of administrative rules that govern the SB 166 Work-Based Learning (WBL) tax and insurance incentives;
- Collaboration among government, business and education stakeholders to make use of SB 166 and spur the development of additional employer-driven WBL programs;
- Grant funding for Career-Technical Planning Districts through the proposed SB 166 Student Pathways for Career Success Program.

2) Support Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs): The state's 51 OTCs offer recent high school graduates and adult students an affordable and efficient route to increase skills and employability and launch their careers. OTCs focus on the employment needs of local business industry, offering on-point, direct skill education. To ensure utilization of the state's OTC infrastructure, career-tech educators recommend the following:

- Advance policies and legislation that encourage the OTC pathway for both high school graduates and adult students who seek to avoid debt and swiftly enter (or re-enter) the workforce;
- Encourage all post-secondary pathways for high school graduates, including Ohio Technical Center opportunities.
- Foster collaboration among higher education stakeholders.

3) Promote Ohio's CTE Infrastructure: A recent research report revealed that career-technical education generates approximately \$1.4B in Ohio economic activity. The average return on investment for a career-tech certificate after 5 years is 224% (757% after 10 yrs; 2,071% after 20 yrs).¹ CTE leaders seek to build upon this progress and further enhance utilization of numerous recently conceived state programs designed to incentivize career-tech, such as TechCred, Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP), Innovative Workforce Incentive Program (IWIP), Adult Diploma Program (ADP), SB 166 Work Based Learning and Driver's Education incentives, and Career Awareness/Exploration Initiatives (among others). The CTE Associations will focus on making sure schools, employers, and students are fully aware of these opportunities so that they can continue to deliver benefits to Ohio's workforce.

CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PREPARES STUDENTS FOR WORK OR COLLEGE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- ◆ Agriculture & Environmental Systems
- ◆ Arts & Communication
- ◆ Business & Administrative Services
- ◆ Construction Technologies
- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ Engineering & Science Technologies
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Health Science
- ◆ Hospitality & Tourism
- ◆ Human Services
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Law & Public Safety
- ◆ Manufacturing Technologies
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Transportation Systems

For More Information Contact:

Ohio Association for Career and
Technical Education / 38 Commerce
Park Dr, Suite D / Westerville, OH 43082
p: 614-890-ACTE(2283)
www.OhioACTE.org

¹ See report conducted by Alpaugh Family Economics Center (affiliated with University of Cincinnati), available at <https://economicsresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/OACTS-Infographic-Final.pdf>.