

*Community Schools Guidance Letter #2010-1  
Effective Date: June 2010  
Updated: February, 2014*

# Community School Students Participating in Career-Technical (CT) Programs Question and Answer Document

Various questions and scenarios have been presented regarding community school (CS) students participating in career-technical education programs (CTE). This document is intended to clarify what is permissible.

There are two kinds of community schools – start-up community schools and conversion community schools. The type of community school has no bearing on a community school student’s participation in CTE programs. Within the two kinds, there can be two types of programs offered - those that are site-based (sometimes called brick and mortar) and those that are Internet-based (often referred to as e-schools).

The answer to the question, *“May a student enrolled in a community school participate in a Career-Tech Program?”* is **“yes,” under the conditions presented below:**

- If the community school has an approved career-tech education program (s) (ORC 3314.08 (B)(2)(d)); or
- If dual enrollment is implemented in both the community school and the career-technical (CT) program operated by the Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD) to which the student’s resident district is a member. (ORC 3314.087(B)).

**1) May a community school student enroll in a career-technical program?**

**Yes, under the conditions below.**

|   | <b>Community School with an Approved Career-Technical Program</b>                                  | <b>Joint Vocational School District (JVSD) CTPD Program</b>  | <b>Comprehensive CTPD Program</b>  | <b>Compact/Contract CTPD Program</b>  |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>For a student enrolled in a site-based Community School (CS)</b> | Yes, if:<br>1) the student follows the enrollment policies and procedures of the community school. | Yes, if:<br>1) the CS student's district of residence is a member of the JVSD CTPD; <b>or</b><br>2) the community school attended is a member the JVSD CTPD; <b>and</b><br>3) The Community school student is dually enrolled in the Community School and JVSD CT program. | Yes, if:<br>1) the CS student resides within the comprehensive district CTPD; <b>or</b><br>2) attends a community school that is a member of the comprehensive district CTPD; <b>and</b><br>3) The CS student is dually enrolled in the CS and the Comprehensive's CT Program. | Yes, if:<br>1) the CS student's district of residence is a member of the compact CTPD; <b>or</b><br>2) the community school attended is a member of the compact CTPD; <b>and</b><br>3) The CS student is dually enrolled in the CS and the CTPD's CT program. |
| <b>For a student enrolled in an e-school</b>                        | Yes, with the same provisions above as applied to a CS student enrolled in a site-based school.    | Yes, with the same provisions above as applied to a CS student enrolled in a site-based school.  | Yes, with the same provisions above as applied to a CS student enrolled in a site-based school.  | Yes, with the same provisions above as applied to CS student enrolled in a site-based school.   |

**2) Are Comprehensives, Compacts and JVSDs required to admit community school students?**

A community school student **may** enroll in a Comprehensive/Compact or JVSD career-technical education programs under the following criteria:

- 1) The program must be provided by the CTPD to which the student's resident district is a member or the community school attended is a member; **and**
- 2) The student meets any established CT program enrollment/eligibility criteria.

**3) If the community school student on an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) is dually enrolled in a CT program provided outside the community school, which district is responsible for implementing the IEP?**

1) The community school is responsible for implementing the IEP.

**4) How is enrollment reported?**

- For a community school with an approved career-technical program, the community school reports enrollment.
- For a community school with a student attending a career-technical program at a JVSD, Compact or Comprehensive district, there is dual enrollment and both report proportionately.

**5) How is attendance reported?**

- For a community school with an approved career-technical program, the community school reports attendance.
- For a community school with a student attending a career-technical program at a JVSD, Compact or Comprehensive district, there is dual enrollment and both report proportionately.

**6) How is funding calculated?**

Pursuant to ORC 3314.08 (B)(2)(e) and 3314.17

- For a community school student attending an approved CT Program at the community school, the community school is funded for the entire Full-Time Equivalence (FTE) and is provided CT weighted (additional) funding for the portion of time the student is enrolled in the CT program.
- For a community school student attending a JVSD, Compact or Comprehensive CT program, both the community school and the district providing the CT program are funded for the portion of time the student attends the respective schools.

**7) Who reports career-technical performance data for Perkins compliance?**

- All community schools will be assigned to the CTPD where the school building is located. E-schools will be assigned to the CTPD where its business office is located. Community school CTPD career-technical performance data is included within the CTPD's Perkins performance report.
- For students enrolled in both a community school and a public school district (i.e., City, Local, Exempted Village, JVSD) for CT, both the community school and the public school district report the data they are required to report.
- Both entities report data that are used to calculate CTE performance.
- The CS reports Local Report Card related data while the CT provider reports those elements exclusive to CT.

## 8) Who is responsible for transportation?

- For a community school with a student attending an approved CT Program at a JVSD, a Comprehensive or a Compact for *part of the day*, the community school is responsible for providing transportation to and/or from the CT program. That transportation must be compliant with all Ohio pupil transportation laws and regulations.
- For a community school with a student attending an approved CT Program at a JVSD, a Comprehensive or a Compact *full time*, the resident district is responsible for providing transportation. In this case, the student will not be transported to the community school campus.
- A district of residence is only responsible for providing transportation to a CT program for community school students if they are otherwise eligible (i.e., the student's home high school/middle school is within a 30-minute travel time to the CT program's location). If a community school student is not eligible for transportation from their district of residence (per the 30-minute rule), there would be no obligation for the resident district to provide transportation to the CT program location. If a student that is otherwise eligible for transportation under 3327.01 and the district of residence is a member of the CTPD, then the district of residence is responsible for providing transportation from the student's residential high school/middle school to the CT program location, and back to the home high school/middle school.

## 9) Community school students' enrollment at JVSDs full time.

- **Question:** If a community school student enrolls in a JVSD **full time**, must the student enroll in the district of residence or may he remain enrolled in the community school while attending the JVS?
- **Answer:** Student must be enrolled in a district of residence or a community school to attend a JVSD full or part time. The district of residence or the community grants credits and will ultimately issue the diploma.

## 10) Community school students' enrollment at JVSDs and administration of the OGT.

- **Question:** If a community school student enrolls part time at a JVSD, is the community school or the JVSD responsible for OGT administration and report card results?
- **Answer:** The Community School is responsible for OGT administration. The JVSD MAY administer the OGT, but is not required to, and the scores roll up to both the CTE report card AND the report card of the community school.

## **Definitions**

**Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD)** – District or group of districts (comprehensive, compact, contract or joint vocational school district) designated by the department of education as being responsible for the planning for and provision of career-technical education services to students within the district or group. All Ohio School districts and community schools are assigned to a CTPD for Career-Technical program delivery, funding and performance reporting purposes. A CTPD may be structured as a single district (comprehensive), a Joint Vocational School District (JVSD) or a Compact/Contract district. Under a plan approved by the State Board of Education each CTPD is required to provide at least 12 Career-Technical programs that represent at least 8 career fields per OAC 3301-61-03.

**Joint Vocational School District (JVSD)** – One form of a Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD), or legal entity through which career-technical programs are delivered. It serves two or more adjacent school districts and is governed by a joint vocational school board consisting of representatives from the participating districts. It meets the size/scope programming requirements per OAC 3301-61-03.

**Comprehensive/Single District** – One form of a CTPD, or legal entity through which career-technical programs are delivered. It offers career-technical programs in career centers and/or at existing high schools in a district. As a single district, the size/scope requirements of OAC3301-61-03 are met.

**Compact/Contract** – One form of a CTPD, or legal entity through which career-technical programs are delivered, created when a number of school districts collaborate via contract to provide career-technical programming to the districts' students to meet the size/scope requirements of OAC 3301-61-03.

**CTPD Lead School District** – a school district, including a joint vocational school district, designated by the department as a CTPD, or designated to provide primary career-technical education leadership within a CTPD composed of a group of districts.

**Community School** – public school created under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, independent of any school district and part of the state's program of education. Community Schools (often called "Charter Schools" in other states) are part of the state's system of public education, offering an education that is regarded as equivalent to that of Ohio's traditional public schools and private schools approved by the state department of education. Community schools are public nonprofit, nonsectarian schools that operate independently of any school district but under a contract with an authorized sponsoring entity that is established by statute or approved by the Ohio Department of Education. Community Schools are public schools of choice and are state and federally funded.

**For More Information:** Please contact the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Office of Career-Technical Education, at (614) 466-3891, or the ODE Office of Community Schools at (614) 466-7058.