

Middle School Career-Technical Education Expansion Frequently Asked Questions

With the recent changes in House Bill 96, the Ohio Biennium Budget, as of July 1, 2026, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will no longer have the authority to waive the requirement that city, local, and exempted village school districts offer career-technical education (CTE) to students enrolled in grades seven and eight.

While each district must develop its own local approach to program design and delivery, this resource is designed to clarify expectations under current law, reduce confusion around implementation timelines and requirements, and address common questions related to middle school CTE programming. It reflects current law and administrative rules to promote accessibility across all districts and school types.

New Law

[Ohio Revised Code 3313.90](#), effective September 30, 2025, requires each city, local, or exempted village district to provide career-technical education to students enrolled in grades seven and eight beginning in the 2026-2027 school year (FY2027).

Districts are encouraged to begin planning now to ensure that middle school students have meaningful opportunities to explore career pathways, develop foundational skills, and engage in hands-on learning experiences that align with Ohio's career field content standards.

This document can be used as a reference when reviewing or updating local curriculum plans, staffing models, and scheduling frameworks to meet the new statutory requirement.

As the local district, are we required to offer this to all students and have all students take the course(s) or is this elective for students to choose if they wish to participate?

All school districts must offer career-technical education courses to students in grades 7 and 8 beginning in school year 2026-2027. Courses offered to 7th and 8th grade students may be VM or VT courses.

Can a VT course fulfill the requirement of providing all students in grades 7 and 8 access to career-technical education in all buildings that serve students in grades 7 and 8?

Yes. Students in grades 7 and 8 are permitted to take VT courses.

(VT)¹ establishes a course as a workforce development-based anchor. This curriculum value defines the anchor course that will be used to determine workforce development pathway enrollment either as an independent course or for a set of connected courses in an approved program of study.

Workforce development-based anchors are high school courses linked to business, industry, and labor demand that ensure a specified seamless pathway through an approved program of student that leads to college and career readiness.

Are middle school CTE courses funded according to categorical funding?

Yes, middle grade career-technical education courses (VM) are funded according to the [categorical supplemental funding rules](#).

What is the first step in offering a middle-grade career-technical education course?

Contact your [Career Technical Planning District](#) (CTPD) lead. Communication and planning are the keys to successful implementation. The Department also created the [Six Step Process for Middle School](#) Career Technical Education Programming which lays out the actions that districts must complete to start their middle school CTE courses.

How do middle grade local district buildings obtain approval to offer middle grade career technical education?

Collaborate with your CTPD lead district to submit a CTE-26 provider application for each building location where students in grades 7 and 8 are served.

What curriculum code designates a career-technical education as a middle grades course?

The curriculum code VM¹ establishes a course as a middle grade Career-Technical Education course. Middle grade CTE courses are introductory level courses linked to business, industry, and labor that ensure a seamless pathway from middle grades to an approved program of study that leads to college and career readiness. CTE middle grade courses may be offered for any pathway with an approved CTE-26 provider application.

Who is qualified to teach middle grades CTE courses?

Appropriately credentialed staff with one of the following:

- 2-Year Provisional CTE License or 2-Year Provisional CTWD License
- Supplemental CTE License or Supplemental CTWD License
- 5-Year Advanced CTE License or 5-Year Advanced CTWD License
- 12 Hour Teaching Permit (designated teaching field)
- 5-year Ohio Professional License that includes middle school grade levels and completion of the [Career-Technical Education Middle School Validation Course](#)
- Supplemental License that includes middle school grade levels and completion of the [Career- Technical Education Middle School Validation Course](#)
- 4-year Resident Educator or Alternative Resident Educator License that includes middle school grade levels and completion of the [Career-Technical Education Middle School Validation Course](#)
- 2-year Resident Educator or Alternative Resident Educator License that includes middle school grade levels and completion of the [Career-Technical Education Middle School Validation Course](#)

Do districts have to select a specified pathway for middle school students?

Yes, districts must select a specified pathway aligned with an approved program of study for middle school students.

A program of study is defined as a minimum of at least four (VT)¹ courses and a minimum of 450 hours from a single pathway.

¹[EMIS Manual Course Master Record](#)