

Expanding Career-Technical Education to Improve Attendance

Ryan Curtis

Manager of Program Design,
Office of Career-Technical Education

Ryan.Curtis@education.ohio.gov



Vision

Ohio students are prepared for success in the real world.



Mission

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce supports Ohio's students, families, and educators to ensure every student gains the knowledge and life skills needed for the future.

Workforce Readiness



Preparing students for success in life and careers through real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences.



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Key Benefits

- Improved Graduation Rates - **CTE concentrators** in Ohio graduate at a **rate of 98%**, compared to the statewide average of **87%**
- Increased Engagement & Motivation - Students in CTE programs are **more likely to attend school regularly** and report feeling that their education is relevant to their future
- Informed Decision Making - **CTE concentrators are 10% more likely** to have a clear postsecondary plan.

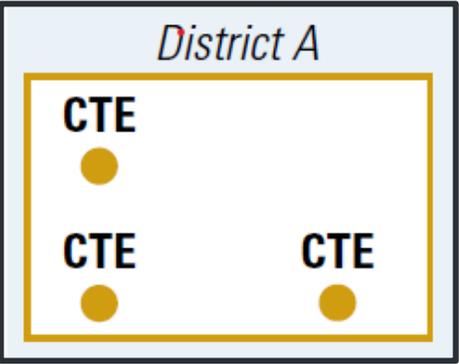
1. [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's CTPD Report Card Guide](#)
2. [Condition of Career Readiness in the United States \(2023\)](#)
3. [What We Know About the Impact of Career and Technical Education: A Systematic Review of the Research](#)

Why CTE Matters

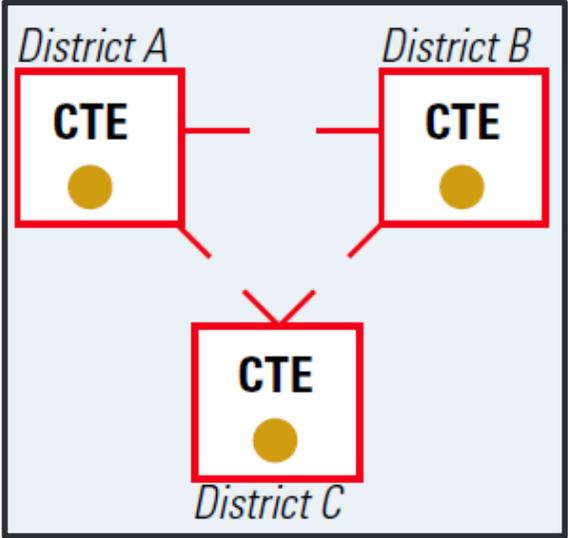
- Early career exposure boosts engagement
- Helps students make informed high school pathway choices
- Aligns with emerging economic opportunities in Ohio
- Experiential learning and real-world connections
- Secures equal opportunity and access for all students

Career-Technical Education Shared Delivery

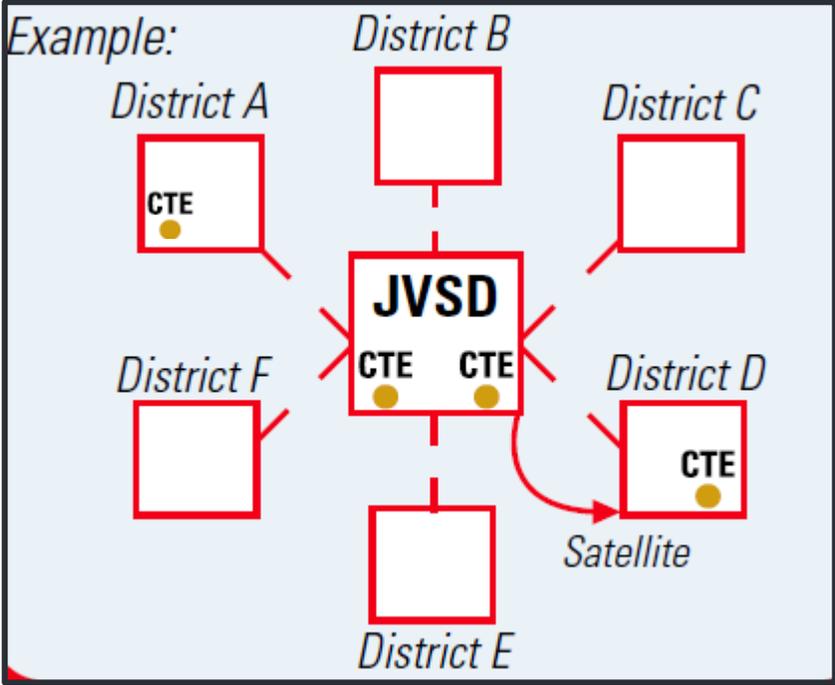
Comprehensive



Contract/Compact



Joint Vocation School District



Career Focused Learning Opportunities

Grades 7-9
Career
Connections

Grades 7-10
Exploratory
CTE Courses

Grades 9-12
CTE Pathway
Courses

Grades 9-12
Work-Based
Learning

Grades 9-12
Industry
Recognized
Credentials

7 - 12

Grades 7-12
Family Consumer
Science

Grades 7-12
Career-Based
Intervention

Grades 11-12
Ohio Technical
Center
(OTC+)

Grades 12
Industry
Credential
Only

Key Course and Program Design Terms

- **Curriculum types for Career-Technical**

- **Education course delivery:**

- VT: Career Technical Education Workforce Development Based Anchor
- VP: Career Technical Education Workforce Development Placement Anchor
- VM: Career Technical Education Middle Grade Course
- V3: Career Technical Education Related/Correlated
- VN: Career Technical Education Non-Workforce Development Based Anchor

- **Delivery methods:**

- CP: Career Tech College Credit Plus
- FF: Face To Face Classroom Instruction
- IS: Independent Study
- IM: Internship/Mentorship
- OL: Online Instruction
- TC: Ohio Technical Center CTE
- TO: Test Out
- OT: Other Delivery Method

Promising Practices 1

Transition “specials” to exploratory CTE courses

- **GYM** - Exercise Science and Athletic Training (Health Sciences Pathway)
- **HEALTH** - Principles of Allied Health (Health Sciences Pathway)
- **ART** – Visual Design Primer (Arts & Communication Pathway)
- **TECHNOLOGY** – Personal Computers (IT Pathway)



Example: Health to Principles of Allied Health

CTE Compliance (VM Course Requirement 30-90 instructional hours)

- Must be career awareness-focused
- Must align with an approved program of study
- No WebXam

Topic	How It's Addressed in the CTE-Aligned Course
Opioid and substance abuse prevention	Integrated into units on public health and allied health roles in prevention
Dating violence prevention	Covered in communication and ethics modules, with emphasis on healthy relationships
Suicide awareness, safety, and inclusion	Embedded in mental health and wellness units, with career connections to behavioral health careers
CPR and AED instruction	Introduced conceptually (hands-on training may occur in high school)
Organ donation awareness	Tied to discussions on medical ethics and careers in transplant coordination

Career Exploration and Experiential Learning

Health Career Mapping Self-Discovery

- Students complete a career interest inventory and map their results to allied health roles (e.g., EMT, radiology tech, physical therapist aide).

Career Clusters Gallery Walk

- Create stations around the room for different allied health careers. Students rotate, collect facts, and reflect on which roles interest them most.

“Day in the Life” Career Journals

- Research and write a journal entry from the perspective of an allied health professional.

Health Science Simulation Stations

- Handwashing and infection control
- Labeling body systems
- PPE donning/doffing

CTSO-Inspired Mini Projects

- Health career display boards
- Public health campaign posters
- Medical terminology scavenger hunts

Community Connections

- Invite a local EMT, nurse, or allied health worker to speak
- Partner with a high school CTE program for a lab tour
- Host a “Health Career Day” with rotating speakers or booths

Promising Practices 2

Integrated Coursework and Simultaneous Credit

- Help students see the “why” of academic content
- Provide more opportunities for project-based, hands-on and personalized learning

[Standards by Design Tool](#)



District-Required General Course	CTE Pathway Alignment	Integrated Model
Science	Allied Health, Biotechnology, Environmental & Agricultural Systems	Embedded modules or co-taught units, project-based learning
Mathematics	Construction, Manufacturing, Business & Finance, Information Technology	Embedded real-world applications, cross-curricular projects
Language Arts	Marketing, Education & Training, Law & Public Safety, Health Science	Career-themed writing and research-based writing
Social Studies	Government & Public Administration, Law & Public Safety, Hospitality & Tourism	Cluster units by theme and project-based learning

Promising Practices 3

- Industry Credential Only Senior Program, Courses (38XX##)

NAME	IRN	CREATED BY	COUNTY	PERIOD	PROGRAM	PATHWAY
Harvey High School	015560	Painesville City Local	Lake	ICO FY 2026 - 2030	ICO	Health Sciences
EMIS CODE	DESCRIPTION					INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS
CB62	CB62 - CPR First Aid - (1 Point)					15
CH26	CH26 - National Healthcare Association (NHA) - Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT) - (12 Points)					120
CJ60	CJ60 - American Medical Certification Association (AMCA) - Phlebotomy Technician Certification - (12 Points)					120
CJ99	CJ99 - Ohio State Apprenticeship Council Recognized Pre-Apprenticeship Program Certificate of Completion - (12 Points)					360
CR72	CR72 - American Medical Certification Association - EKG Technician Certification - (3 Points)					120

Graduation through Career Readiness

Competency Alternative: **Career Readiness**

Complete 2 demonstrations to show competency, at least 1 must be a foundational option

Foundational Demonstration

- Cumulative score of proficient or higher on 3 or more WebXams in single career pathway
- Earn a 12-pt. approved industry-recognized credential or group of credentials totaling 12 pt. in one career field
- Earn a State issued license in a vocation that requires an examination
- Pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program
 - Registered with Ohio State Apprenticeship Council



Supporting Demonstration

- Complete 250-hours Work-based Learning
- Earn workforce readiness score on WorkKeys
- Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal



QUESTIONS?

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**





**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV