

Ohio's Career Technical Education

This two-hour professional development session can serve as an extension of Empowering Students for Effective Career Conversations. Additionally, resources and information from the Ohio Department of Education informed this module.

This session teaches participants about the changing postsecondary education and career landscape, the multitude of options in career technical education, and how to help students create their postsecondary education and career plans. It also provides resources to help students design, organize, and sequence course offerings, for a personalized and relevant course of study, and apply what they have learned about themselves to choose in-demand occupations. Participants will learn how to navigate the multitude of resources available to students.

As a working definition, Career Technical Education (CTE) is a broad term for education that combines academic and technical skills, with the knowledge and training, needed to succeed in today's labor market. CTE prepares students for their careers, by introducing them to workplace competencies in a real-world, applied context. The focus of the CTE department is industry-developed Ohio Department of Education (ODE) curriculum, articulation agreements, certifications, and internship opportunities. Students learn through planning, career awareness, exploration, choices, and plans to take college courses and earn industry credentials. Career pathways are essential to increase student engagement, reduce high school dropout rates, raise student achievement, increase high school completion and postsecondary transition rates that lead to an increase in earning power, consumerism, and financial capital.

The state of Ohio law requires that every student have the opportunity to partake in, and have access to CTE. As a result, there are Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPD), local education agencies, which include comprehensive districts, compact or contract districts, or joint vocational school districts that offer state sanctioned career-technical programming.

Because of the ODE's collaboration with the Ohio Department of Higher Education, every high school student enrolled in CTE can earn postsecondary credit through the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Career-Technical Assurance Guidelines (CTAG) or College Credit Plus (CCP), which include two- and four-year college degrees, apprenticeships, and industry credentials.

In a culminating activity, participants will employ what they have learned and help students create a comprehensive, education and career pathway to a future career.