

# Career and Technical Education in Utah's Secondary Schools

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## Major Areas of Focus, 2011-12

1. Develop and provide quality online CTE courses and develop an equitable funding mechanism.
2. Work to have keyboarding required in elementary and middle school.
3. Have CTE data accessible in Cognos and other data systems used by districts.
4. Be involved in the College and Career Ready initiative.

## Career and Technical Education Goals 2011-12

**Career and Technical Education (CTE)** provides students with technical training to prepare for a successful career. The structured training each student receives gives him or her the tools needed to be successful in a job after high school and/or further his or her post-secondary education, whether technical school, two- or four-year college. Programs help students develop the essential skills to enter today's competitive job market with confidence.

### Strengths of CTE Programs

- 56,000 participate (grades 7-8)
- 142,000 participate (grades 9-12)
- 8,000 seniors complete a CTE Pathway
- 86,000 Skill Certificates awarded
- 138,000 in Work-Based Learning
- 27,000 students participate in CTE concurrent enrollment earning 73,000 credit hours

### Challenges of CTE Programs

- Decreased state and federal funding
- Increased high school graduation requirements reducing CTE opportunities
- Focus on four-year and advanced degrees
- Lack of understanding of CTE and how it supports future education
- Gap between workforce needs and education and training

Annually CTE district directors and state staff establish goals to help increase education and career opportunities for Utah students. This document reflects statewide CTE goals for the 2011-12 school year.

## GOALS

### 1. Communication and Support

- Develop and execute communication strategies with legislators, business and industry, parents, students, educators, State Board of Education, and local school boards.
- Implement strategies to strengthen CTE in collaboration with the Utah System of Higher Education and UCAT.
- Develop and utilize fact sheets, flyers, newsletters, brochures and social media to promote awareness of workforce needs and CTE programs.
- Expand the UtahCTE.org website and promote usage.
- Promote the UtahFutures website resources.
- Work with legislators to maintain CTE add-on funding and restore CTE state set-aside funding.
- Work to provide equitable distribution of CTE funding.

### 2. Pathways

- Engage in the State Board's College and Career Ready initiative.



*The vision of CTE is to see that every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of career areas throughout high school that will equip him or her with the academic knowledge, technical and employment skills vital for entry into the evolving workforce of the 21st century.*

*The role of Career and Technical Education is to:*

- *Provide Career and Technical Education in the state's K-12 system of public education.*
- *Introduce students to career options and assist in development of career goals.*
- *Provide technical and occupation-specific skills.*
- *Prepare students for further education and training.*

## 2. Pathways, cont.

- Strengthen and maintain articulation between high school and post-secondary programs, including concurrent enrollment opportunities.
- Continue to implement CTE Pathways, utilizing awareness and staff development activities, with greater focus on post-secondary participation.
- Strengthen College and Career Plans (formerly SEOP) and promote CTE High School to College and Career Pathways with school counselors.
- Support goals of student transition from secondary to post-secondary education.
- Implement the 10 federal elements of a Program of Study/Pathway.

## 3. Workforce Alignment

- Align CTE programs to meet workforce needs by adjusting current curriculum and implementing new courses and programs.
- Collaborate with the Utah System of Higher Education, workforce development, Chamber of Commerce and Governor's Excellence Commission initiatives.
- Engage in K-16 Alliance goals and activities at all levels.

## 4. "Promises to Keep"

### 4a. Numeracy and Literacy

- Continue the implementation of the "Math in CTE" program.
- Integrate State Common Core Curriculum standards of relevance to CTE curriculum.
- Implement staff development activities that strengthen numeracy and literacy in the CTE curriculum.

### 4b. High Quality Instruction

- Develop high quality online CTE courses.
- Utilize educator high quality instruction elements (engaging, focused, explicit, assessed, adapted) in evaluation and professional development activities.
- Enhance summer conference activities, utilizing new technology and instructional strategies.
- Provide new teacher support.

### 4c. Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum

- Maintain relevant and rigorous CTE curriculum through systematic revision of standards.
- Utilize input of business and industry to maintain rigor and relevance.
- Continue to encourage the implementation of the "Math in CTE" program.
- Pursue additional courses to count as math, science, and language arts requirements.
- Implement new, relevant CTE courses.

### 4d. Accountability

- Continue to improve the CTE Skill Certification program and reporting capabilities.
- Provide accountability through the CTE program approval process.
- Meet Perkins provisions and utilize performance data.
- Provide CTE data in Cognos and other data systems accessed by district administrators.