Career and Technical Student Organizations

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is helping our nation address key challenges such as workforce development, student achievement, economic vitality, and global competitiveness.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are key components to strong CTE programs. They integrate into CTE programs and courses and extend teaching and learning through innovative programs, business and community partnerships and leadership experiences at the school, state, and national levels.

- CTSOs provide relevant, engaging programs that improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates, and help students discover the wide range of career options available.
- CTSOs engage the community and local businesses to help students understand global competition and chart effective and efficient pathways through high school and postsecondary education for their personal success.
- CTSO programs, such as industry-based competitive events and community service, provide students with the opportunity to develop 21st century skills focused on creativity, problem solving, teamwork, and goal setting.
- CTSOs bring relevance to the classroom and prepare students to be college and career ready.

MAKING AN IMPACT

With more than 14 million student members nationwide, CTSOs have a definite impact on students' overall college and career readiness.

Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students.

According to the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, participating in leadership and professional development activities in a CTSO raises students' educational aspirations.

Students who participate in school organizations in 10th grade have higher grade point averages and are more likely to be enrolled in college at 21 than other students.

Participation in a CTSO, in conjunction with a CTE Career Pathway, prepares students for lifelong career success.

Utah CTSOs

Career and Technical Education makes an impact on youth and adults while preparing them for successful careers. CTE is an essential component of the total educational system in Utah and is critical to the country's ability to compete in a global economy.

UTAH PROFILE

2024-2025

Secondary and postsecondary members statewide:

DECA = 4,050 in 76 chapters
EdRising = 571 in 112 chapters
FBLA = 2,910 in 151 chapters
FCCLA = 2,816 in 131 chapters
FFA = 17,257 in 98 chapters
HOSA = 3,670 in 110 chapters
SkillsUSA = 2,727 in 161 chapters
TSA = 2,111 in 67 chapters

DID YOU KNOW?

CTE programs are supported at the federal level by the Carl D. Perkins CTE Federal Education Act, which provides approximately $1.2 billion dollars in state grants annually to serve more than 14 million students nationwide.

In Utah, CTSOs are comprised of eight nonprofit organizations, specifically authorized by the U.S. Congress in the Perkins Act.

In Utah, CTSOs align with the national CTE Career Clusters® and the 32 CTE Career Pathways.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students in Career and Technical Education have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), thus engaging in leadership activities as an integral part of the instructional program.

CTSOs present organized activities for students to gain personal and leadership skills, making them more employable, preparing them to become productive citizens, and assisting them in assuming positive roles in the home and community. They are not after-school clubs where only a few CTE students belong, but a powerful instructional tool integrated into the CTE classroom. CTSOs help students develop leadership skills and positive work values, while reinforcing the Career and Technical Education curriculum.

All students, in every high school throughout the state, have CTSO opportunities.

DECA—An association of marketing students. DECA is a student leadership organization that provides hands-on leadership development. Students learn how to develop, price, place, and promote products in the right business setting. The organization builds self-confidence, positive work attitudes, and communication skills. Utah has 4,050 members in 76 chapters.

In 2025, DECA student members participated in competitive events at the DECA International Career Development Conference. Eight secondary student members placed in the top ten.

Educators Rising—An association for future teachers. Educators Rising cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession. Utah has 571 members in 112 chapters.

In 2025, Educator Rising student members competed at the Educators Rising National Leadership Conference in 27 competitive events. Eleven secondary student members placed in the top five.

FBLA—Future Business Leaders of America. FBLA provides students with opportunities for leadership, community involvement, business partnerships, and competition with other students in events ranging from Public Speaking to Job Interview to Parliamentary Procedures. Utah has 2,910 members in 151 chapters.

In 2025, at the FBLA National Leadership Conference, 41 secondary and student members placed in the top ten in the nation for their extraordinary achievement in their FBLA events.

Many postsecondary institutions in Utah offer technical programs, including universities, colleges, technical colleges, and other public and private two- and four-year colleges.

FCCLA—Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. FCCLA provides students with opportunities to attain knowledge, skills, and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in life and careers through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Utah has 2,910 members in 151 chapters.

In 2025, at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, student members competed in 165 competitions. Of these students, 55 received gold medals, 102 received silver medals, and 218 received bronze medals.

FFA—The organization for agricultural education students. FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Utah has 17,257 members in 98 chapters.

In 2024, at the National FFA Convention and Expo, student members were recognized for individual accomplishments, with 89 members receiving the American FFA degree—the highest recognition an FFA member can receive.

HOSA—Future Health Professionals. HOSA provides students with opportunities to attain the knowledge, skills and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in a health care profession, through leadership training, career training, and service projects. Utah has 3,670 members in 110 chapters.

In 2025, at the HOSA National Leadership Conference, eighty-eight secondary and postsecondary student members placed in the top ten in a variety of healthcare-related competitions.

SkillsUSA—Skilled and Technical Sciences Student Organization. SkillsUSA provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. The organization builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes, and communication skills. It emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, lifelong education and pride in the dignity of work. Utah has 2,727 members in 161 chapters.

In 2025, at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, Utah state champions competed in 144 different hands-on skilled and technical competitive events. Of these students, 11 received gold medals, 13 received silver medals, and 15 received bronze medals.

TSA—Technology Student Association. TSA is the only student organization dedicated exclusively to students enrolled in technology and engineering classes in grades 7-12. TSA fosters personal growth, leadership training, career development, teamwork, community service, competitive events, and student recognition to supplement the curriculum in technology and engineering. Leadership opportunities are available at the local, state, or national levels. Utah has 2,111 members in 67 chapters.

In 2025, at the National TSA Leadership Conference, 16 middle/junior high and high school TSA members, placed in the top ten in the nation for their exceptional achievement in technology-based competitive events. Each event was based on principles and concepts learned through projects during the school year in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects.

Our vision is to see that every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of CTE Pathways 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. Thus, CTE will be a driving force in the economic development of Utah.

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