College, Career and Technical Education

2020-2021 Overview

Tennessee Department of Education | November 2021

TN Department of Education

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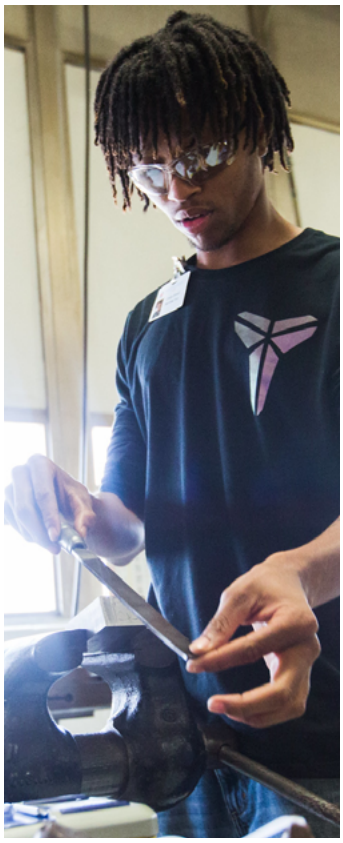


Executive Summary

The Tennessee Department of Education's division of College, Career, and Technical Education (CCTE) plays a critical role in the future of our workforce. CCTE impacts the state's economy, school districts, students, and all stakeholders through ambitious projects and a tireless commitment to improvement. This report serves to highlight the achievements of the past school year and to preview what is still to come.

Economic Impact

Through expansion of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, CCTE gives all students—including those from historically marginalized populations—the opportunity to earn while they learn. These initiatives not only assist in ***breaking the cycle of generational poverty***, they also help ***guarantee well trained employees*** for state manufacturers and other vital businesses.

School District Impact

The CCTE division provides intentional support for local school districts to improve ***access and equity to high-quality CTE programs***. This includes helping LEAs to align their programs with local, regional, and state labor market needs via the Tennessee Certified Pathways; improving training for STEM educators, providing robust instructional resources for CTE classroom use, and continuing to provide ongoing professional development for teachers and administrators.

Student Impact

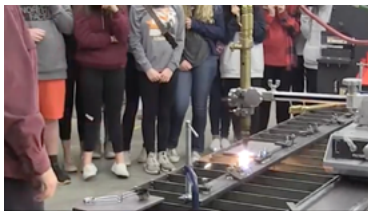
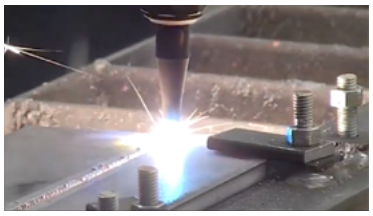
Tennessee students can earn valued industry credentials that help lead to expanded options for future job placement. The CCTE division continuously assesses and improves the credentials offered to students as well as the standards which guide CTE classroom instruction. Students also benefit from the CCTE's commitment to improving STEM/STE(A)M programs statewide. In addition, students can engage in robust work-based learning experiences and participation in Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs) that help them see the ***connection between what they learn in school with what they will do in the professional workforce***.

Future Impact

The work of the CCTE division was made more challenging by the pandemic but it also provided opportunities to become more innovative. The future of Career and Technical Education in Tennessee is brighter than ever with ambitious projects and initiatives on the horizon. Through reimagining the high school experience; expanding access to Advanced Placement courses; improving how CTE data is collected and used; becoming more strategic about engaging younger students in career exploration; and being even more intentional in how we listen to—and learn from—Tennesseans from diverse backgrounds, CCTE will continue to ***keep our state's workforce strong*** for years to come.

SECTION 1: CCTE Impact on TN Economy

Apprenticeships

Project Description

In September 2018, the department was awarded over $600,000 from the US Department of Education (USDOE) for the Pathways to STEM Apprenticeships for High School CTE Students Grant. The purpose of this grant is to establish competency-based registered apprenticeship programs in STEM-related fields, including advanced manufacturing and computer science, where high school students simultaneously participate in paid on-the-job training and receive high-quality related training instruction.

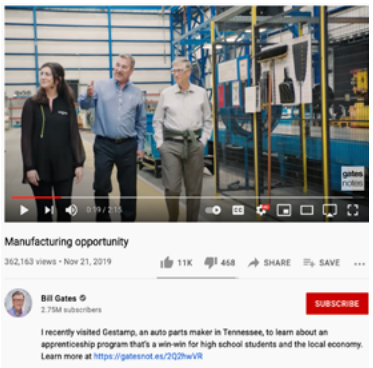
Impact on Tennessee

This project provides alternative options for students who were unlikely to transition into postsecondary education after high school, closes equity and access gaps for special populations, and, most importantly, establishes a scalable youth apprenticeship model that other districts can use with their employer partners statewide. As a result of this work, a greater number of students will be able to participate in high-growth, high-wage occupations.

2020-21 Highlights

In addition to the ***existing pilot APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM at Gestamp, Chattanooga...***

4 NEW STEM-RELATED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REGISTERED



Combination Welder
Oshkosh Defense Corporation

IT Generalist
Maryville City Schools

ALL 29 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES*

seamlessly ***transitioned into a postsecondary institution or directly into the workforce***

In the last year...

28 OF THE 41 STUDENTS*

economically disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, non-traditional programs of study based on gender, or English Language Learners

This project has significantly eliminated barriers to entry for special populations

*participating in GRANT-RELATED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Milestones

- Increase the number of STEM-related registered apprenticeship programs associated with this grant from three to five
- Increase the number of students participating in grant-related activities by at least twenty percent while maintaining a high participation rate from special populations
- Create and distribute informational and promotional resources about youth apprenticeships to K-12 stakeholders, including students, educators, administrators, school counselors, parents, and employers

Pre-Apprenticeships

ⓘ Project Description

ApprenticeshipTN (tn.gov/apprenticeshiptn) is an inter-agency collaborative established by the TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development that aims to increase access to registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for all Tennesseans. The department's role in this collaborative is to help design models for eligible K-12 students to participate in registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in accordance with T.C.A. 50-5-107 and to work with LEAs to partner with employers who offer registered and pre-apprenticeship programs for high school students.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

5 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH US DEPT. OF LABOR

Combination Welder
Oshkosh Defense Corporation

IT Generalist
Maryville City Schools

Maintenance Tech. (mechatronics),
SL Tennessee

**Registered as a part of a US Dept. of Education Grant*

TN Department of Education

STATE CERTIFICATION

FOR PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS
developed & implemented in partnership...

TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development

3 PRE-APPRENTICE PROGRAMS AWARDED PRE-APPRENTICESHIP STATE CERTIFICATION

Residential & Commercial Construction pre-apprenticeship	
Registered by	**In Partnership with**
JA Street	*Tennessee High School*
Amteck	*Lake County Schools*
Lee Company	*Mt. Pleasant High School*

Impact on Tennessee

As a result of intentional planning and collaboration between LEAs, state agencies, workforce development boards, and employers, Tennessee students will be able to more efficiently transition from high school into a career pathway. By introducing pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship opportunities in high school, students will accelerate their ability to earn a livable wage.

☑ Milestones

JUNE 2021
In partnership with the department, publish an Updated WBL Framework & Nomenclature for all stakeholders

JULY 2021
Conduct at least two informative presentations at the Summer Institute for CTE Educators

DECEMBER 2021
Certify at least three more pre-apprenticeship programs available to high school students

DECEMBER 2021
Register at least one more apprenticeship program available to high school students with the US Department of Labor

SECTION 2: CCTE Impact of Districts

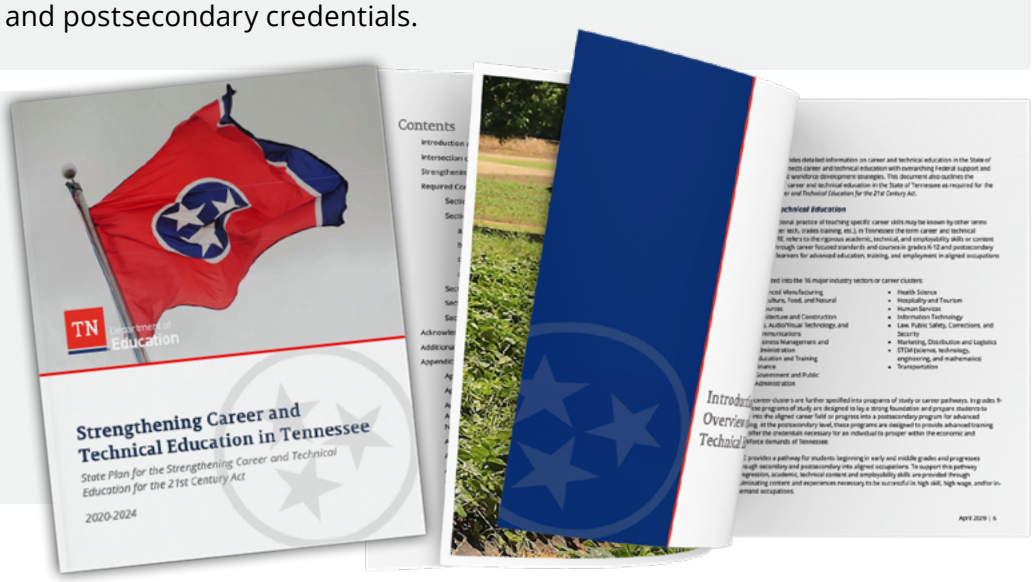
Strengthening Career & Technical Education in Tennessee

ⓘ Project Description

The Perkins V 4-year plan, **Strengthening Career and Technical Education in Tennessee,** includes specific statewide strategies to "rethink CTE" focusing on three major priorities: expanding equitable access to comprehensive CTE; increasing participation in aligned career pathways which lead students to high-skill, high wage, and in-demand occupations; and, doubling the number of students who participate in high-quality work-based learning opportunities and earning relevant industry and postsecondary credentials.

Impact on Tennessee

This project increased funding and flexibility for local districts and expanded the definition of concentrator, allowing more students to receive CTE services.



✪ 2020-21 Highlights

TENNESSEE'S PLAN APPROVED

$23M+ WENT TO SECONDARY & POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT CTE LEARNERS

☑ Milestones

- Revise state-determined levels of performance based on CTE baseline data
- Partner with local districts to support middle school CTE career exploration
- Launch new data collection processes

44 TENNESSEE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, ***15 IN ECONOMICALLY AT-RISK OR DISTRESSED COUNTIES,*** WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF...

$3,087,625.51 IN PERKINS RESERVE GRANT (PRG) AWARDS

Certified Tennessee Pathways

ⓘ Project Description

Since the inception of the Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the department of education have been closely invested in the goal to increase economic opportunity for all Tennesseans by increasing credential attainment and workforce readiness. Since the launch of Tennessee Pathways in July 2018, the coordination among K-12 and the higher education system is more strategic, collaborative, and innovative than ever before.

During this challenging time battling a pandemic and an economic recession, the partnership between the department of education and TBR is more important than ever. Tennessee Pathways Regional Coordinators, housed on the campuses of TBR institutions, are a physical representation of our state's commitment to connecting education to workforce needs across the state.

➖ Impact on Tennessee

Seamless education-to-career pathways help students, families, and educators understand how to move from education to high-quality careers in their communities. By driving partnerships and alignment among districts, postsecondary, and industry partners, this work supports our goals of equitable access to postsecondary education and access to upward economic mobility.

☑ Milestones

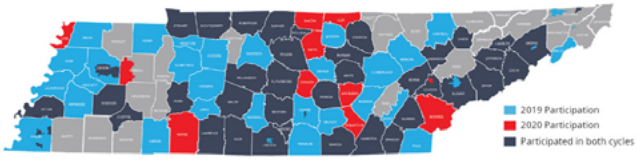
Supporting the launch of the:

- **Innovative High School Models** grant opportunity
- **TEC Project federal grant** to expand rural computer science and STEM pathways
- **TNSySTEM federal grant project** to create innovative high school models that offer work-based courses--courses that offer postsecondary credit and work-based learning simultaneously

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

TENNESSEE Pathways

Tennessee Pathways supports every district in the state in developing, enhancing, and growing regional education-to-career pathways.

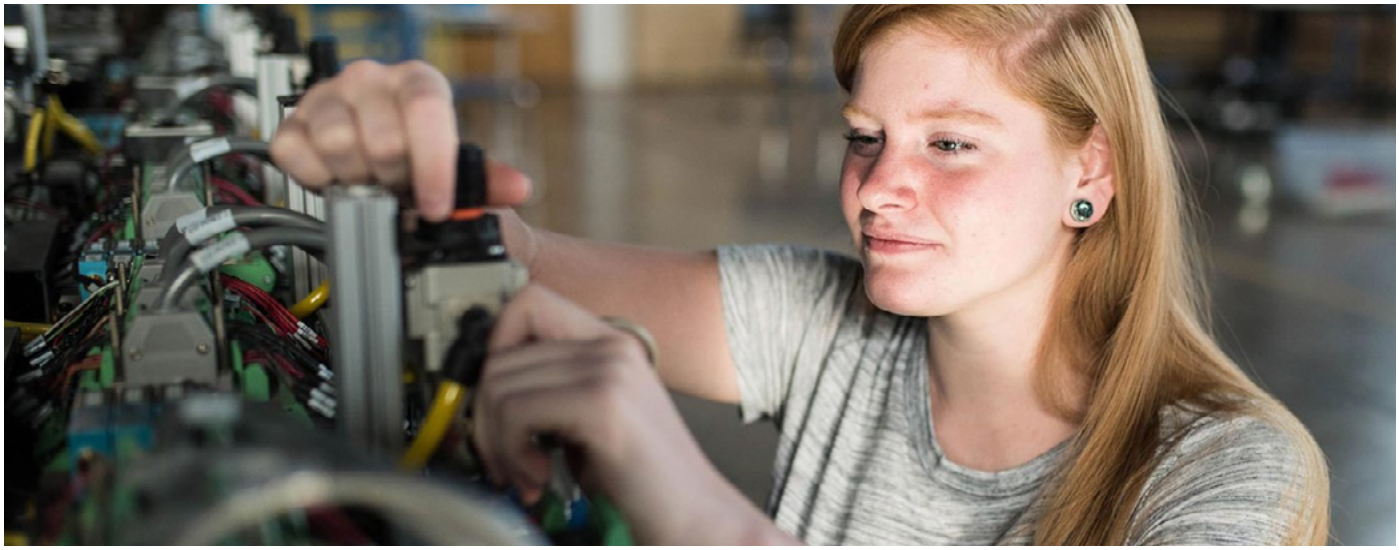


tbr THE COLLEGE SYSTEM of TENNESSEE

TN Department of Education

281	62	1,283	695	4,000+
CERTIFIED PATHWAYS	POSTSECONDARY PARTNERS	EMPLOYER PARTNERS	INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS	EARLY POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

In spring 2021, **PATHWAYS REGIONAL COORDINATORS WILL SUPPORT 20+ DISTRICT-POSTSECONDARY PARTNERSHIP EVENTS** to smooth the transition from high school to college for seniors attending local community college or TCAT



USDOE Grants

ⓘ Project Description

Our division is overseeing two federal grants, TNSySTEM and Tennessee Expansion of Computer Science Career Pathways (TEC) Project.

TN SySTEM will develop, implement, and test the feasibility of STEM work-based courses (WBC) structured as EPSOs with a focus on computer science for students in grades 11-12. WBC will integrate classroom and WBL in courses that are co-taught by academic faculty and employer instructors with content taught both in classroom settings (remote and in-person) and through applied learning that uses the workplace as a laboratory.

The TEC Project will demonstrate an exceptional approach to expanding STEM pathways in rural communities. TEC will support the expansion of computer science (CS) out-of-school programs in rural Tennessee (TN) schools by ensuring that rural districts have qualified instructors, industry-endorsed curriculum and materials, and innovative career exploration and experiences so that underrepresented rural students gain the skills, postsecondary credentials, and experience necessary to embark on high-wage, high-quality CS pathways.

Impact on Tennessee

TNSySTEM and the TEC project will expand STEM and Computer Science opportunities to students across the state, while breaking down barriers in rural areas by allowing students to experience and have access to WBL, EPSO, and IC opportunities.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

NEARLY

$7M+

AWARDED TO EXPAND STEM & COMPUTER SCIENCE ACROSS THE STATE

DISTRICTS RECEIVING FUNDING THROUGH THE TEC GRANT

- White County Schools
- Hamblen County Schools
- Cocke County Schools
- Trenton Special School District (SSD)
- Gibson County SSD

☑ Milestones

- Open up a RFP to award up to 20 schools funding through the TNSySTEM grant
- Begin support of 5 districts identified for the TEC project

CTE Instructional Resources

Project Description

Best for All Central (BFAC) is an online tool designed to provide school leaders, educators, and families an extensive collection of high-quality, optional resources to support teaching and learning, as well as features for locating specific resources quickly and easily.

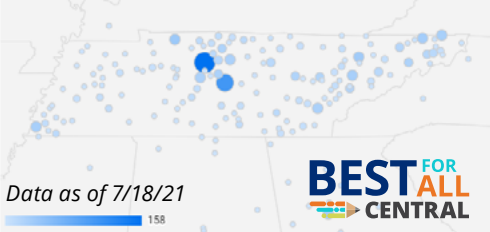
Impact on Tennessee

The resources in the online tool are designed to accommodate various levels of Wi-Fi and technology accessibility in mind, and many of them can be utilized online, downloaded, or printed for later use.

2020-21 Highlights

150+ RESOURCES

SPECIFIC TO CTE CAREER CLUSTERS CREATED



8,204 BFAC PAGEVIEWS

SINCE LAUNCHING CTE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES IN NOVEMBER 2021

2,000+ UNIQUE USERS IN TN

Milestones

- Expand development of resources for BFAC through the CTE Dynamic Instructional Resources (DIR) project.
- Establish a strong foundation to expand CTE DIR into the CTE Master Program for Educators.

Institute for CTE Educators

Project Description

The Institute for CTE Educators, commonly referred to as simply the Institute is designed to engage attendees through sessions, workshops, and industry tours. Attendees will have opportunities to explore instructional and resource best practices, network, and grow their professional focus on preparing students to meet the demands of the postsecondary pathway of their choosing.

Impact on Tennessee

This professional development conference provides CTE educators will access to network and creates opportunities for business and industry to interact with CTE educators. CTE educators, administrators, and counselors are equipped to establish and/or continue high-quality CTE programs that reach all Tennessee students.

2020-21 Highlights

100% VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

2,033 ATTENDEES

95% SATISFACTION RATE
(PER ATTENDEE SURVEYS)

152 SESSIONS
(LIVE & RECORDED)

Milestones

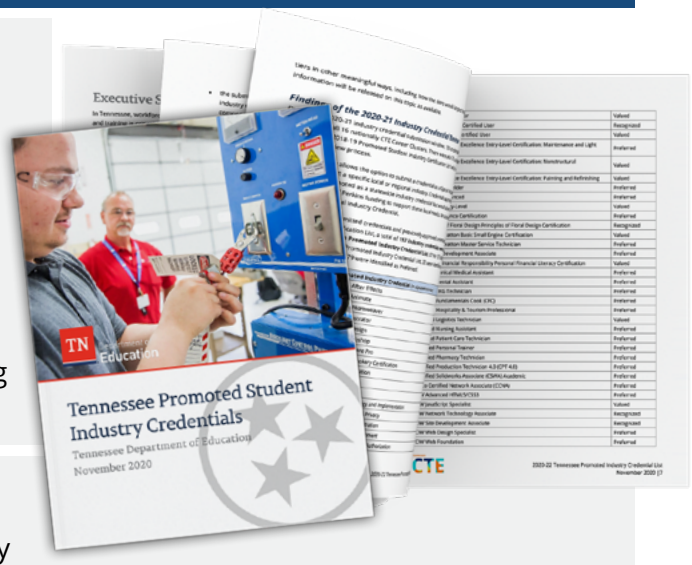
- Transition to a hybrid conference that allows for in-person career cluster specific tours
- Maintain recordings of all recorded sessions for future use

SECTION 3: CCTE Impact on Students

Industry Credentials

ⓘ Project Description

This year, the industry credential process was revised to establish clear criteria to promote an industry credential statewide. This new process allows for industry credentials to be submitted for review by representatives of the secondary, postsecondary, workforce, and other governmental agencies. The statewide promoted list can be utilized by all districts, and not just specific to some. If the credential is on the list, it is applicable for all students in all districts, making them easier to obtain and met Ready Graduate criteria.



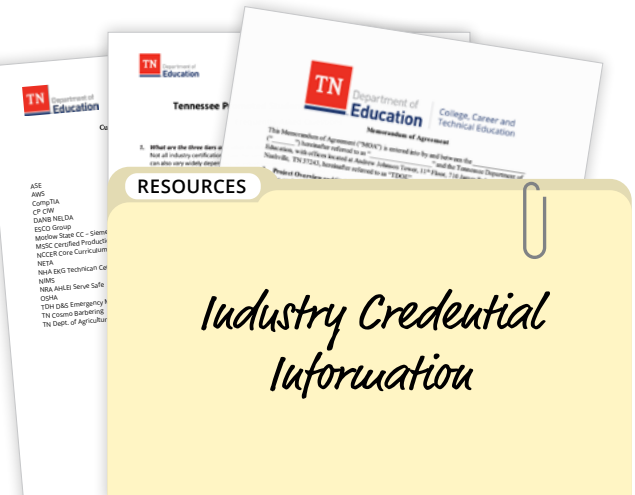
Impact on Tennessee

Industry credentials can be used as a measure of quality and validate the technical skill and competencies students have acquired through their chosen CTE program of study. Additionally, industry credentials factor into Tennessee's school and district accountability framework under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as part of the college and career readiness indicator, "Ready Graduate.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

157 INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL PROMOTED LISTINGS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

ESTABLISHED A **TIER RATING SYSTEM** TO DISTINGUISH CREDENTIALS



CREATED MULTIPLE **GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS & RESOURCES** TO AID IN CREDENTIAL SUBMISSION FOR VENDORS, DISTRICTS, & POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

☑ Milestones

MAY-JULY 2021
Opening up the submission for to allow the public the opportunity to submit credentials for programs of study

AUG. 2021
Review submitted industry credentials

NOV. 2021
Release the Industry Credential Promoted Listing for the 2022-23 school year

Update the conversion chart to align industry credentials with the current Ready Graduate Indicators

CTE Programs

Project Description

Tennessee's career clusters are organized into 16 broad categories that encompass virtually all occupations from entry through professional levels and are aligned with the U.S. Department of Education's structure of career and technical education (CTE). Career clusters identify the knowledge and skills needed to follow a pathway toward career goals and provide a context for exploring the many occupational options available.

Career clusters are reviewed every three years through the Comprehensive Career Cluster Review (C3R). Through this review, program managers engage with CTE educators, postsecondary partners, and business/industry partners to review various research and labor data points to determine improvements needed within the career cluster, program of study, and/or course standards.

Impact on Tennessee

This project ensure that course standards are aligned to current labor market needs to support worker pipelines across industries in Tennessee. This project also creates opportunity for students to engage in career pathways with experiences such as work-based learning, early postsecondary opportunities, and industry credential attainment.

2020-21 Highlights

PROGRAM(S) OF STUDY (POS) **19** **REVIEWED**

RECOMMENDATIONS

9 REVISING TO ALIGN WITH INDUSTRY & LABOR NEEDS

1 RETIREMENT (PUBLIC MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION)

ALL STANDARDS REFORMATTED TO FOCUS ON KNOWLEDGE / SKILLS & LEAVE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION TO THE PROFESSIONAL DECISION OF THE TEACHER

3 NEW COURSES RECOMMENDED FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- FLORAL DESIGN & OPERATIONS
- EQUINE SCIENCE
- INTRO TO TEACHING STATEWIDE DUAL CREDIT (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TBR)

Milestones

- Conduct needs assessment, including data review, and review current course standards
- Meet with all advisory council groups
- Make recommendations for course changes to State Board of Education
- Develop and deliver professional development to CTE educators, adminstrators, and counselors

STE(A)M

ⓘ Project Description

At its foundation, STEM and/or STE(A)M education is focused on building critical and creative thinking and analysis skills by addressing how students view and experience the world around them. Strong STEM and/or STE(A)M teaching and learning opportunities rest on inquiry-, technology-, and project-based learning activities and lessons that are tied to the real world; a diverse, interdisciplinary curriculum where activities in one class complement those in other classes; robust partnerships that reach beyond the walls of the classroom to include higher education and business; and strong school leaders who understand the "STEM approach" and fully use it to transform the delivery of education.

Impact on Tennessee

This project strives to provide solutions to students who are often inadequately prepared to take on the challenges that STEM positions demand; lacking critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills; and/or also face challenges involving real-world applications like problem-solving, conducting independent research, and proactively seeking solutions.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

CREATED K8 COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS TRAINING

SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS TO STEM DESIGNATED SCHOOLS

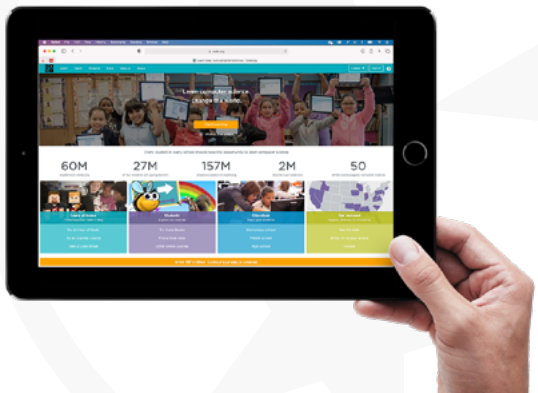
STREAM SUMMER MINI CAMP SUPPORTS LEARNING LOSS REMEDIATION & STUDENT ACCELERATION ACT

☑ Milestones

- Creation of a Rual STE(A)M Alliance
- Annual STEM School Designation application to convening
- Launch of STREAM Camp Interventions through learning loss initiative supports
- Designing Computer Science Microcredentials and Integration Models

SCALED THE STE(A)M RESOURCE HUB TO SUPPORT TEACHERS STATEWIDE

MANAGED CODE.ORG PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM



Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

ⓘ Project Description

Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) recognize and promote the concept of well-rounded students as being essential for all students to assume successful roles in society and the labor market. In general, CTSOs help to improve the quality and relevance of classroom instruction, develop student leadership, enhance citizenship responsibilities, and serve students of special populations. As such, each CTSO must support a career cluster. Currently, the department recognizes the following seven CTSOs that support career and technical education programs in Tennessee: *DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, & TSA.*

Impact on Tennessee

CTSOs provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in the classroom in a competitive environment. Students who participate meet judges from industry and postsecondary and develop relationships that

can lead to internships, sponsorships, scholarships, and hiring. When advisors affiliate with CTSOs, they gain access to classroom resources, lesson plans, and professional development events making the connections between CTSOs and CTE education all the more seamless.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

THE 100% FFA AFFILIATION PROGRAM OFFERS ALL AGRICULTURE STUDENTS ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION

6 CTSOS **OFFERED VIRTUAL STATE CONFERENCES,** PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS STATEWIDE TO DEMONSTRATE SKILLS THEY HAVE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION COSTS MINIMIZED TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL STRAIN ON FAMILIES AS POSSIBLE AS THEY RECOVER FROM THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

3 CTE STUDENTS, 1 OF WHICH IS THE 2021-22 SKILLSUSA STATE OFFICER PRESIDENT, **AWARDED OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DR. MIGUEL CARDONA,** TO PROVIDE INSIGHT AND FEEDBACK ON THE SCHOOL REOPENING PROCESS

☑ Milestones

- Establish conference dates, locations, and formats for the upcoming school year
- Engage in more professional development opportunities specific to CTSO advisors
- Expand access to CTSOs in middle grade levels

SECTION 4: Looking to the Future

Innovative High School Models

ⓘ Project Description

In May 2021, Innovative High School Model grant awards were announced for 21 districts across Tennessee. The goal of the program is to encourage strategic and innovative partnerships between Tennessee public school districts, postsecondary education institutions and local employers to reimagine how to prepare students for success after high school. In total, $30 million in grant funding was awarded through a competitive application process, with individual grant awards from $750,000 to $2 million, to establish collaborative partnerships that accelerate and increase student attainment of high-quality, in-demand postsecondary credentials.

The grant awardees were selected based off their commitment to rethink and revision high school educational models – from the use of time and space, entrance requirements, instructional practices and modes of learning, scheduling and mentorship and training opportunities available to students – to provide new and additional pathways for students to be prepared for postsecondary success.

Impact on Tennessee

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department recognized an opportunity to bridge potential gaps in preparing high school students for successful transitions to college and career. The Innovative High School Model grants are intended to reimagine traditional high school to better prepare students for the education and skills necessary to align with needs in the labor and workforce. Successful programs will make a positive impact for students, educators, industry partners, communities, and local economies.

☑ Milestones

MAY 17, 2021
21 districts awarded grants

SEPTEMBER 2023
Schools will implement before this date

AWARDED 21 GRANTS
RANGING FROM $750K - $2M

AP Access for All

ⓘ Project Description

Advanced Placement (AP) for All will provide students with access to virtual AP courses, educational resources, and individualized teacher support. The goal is to eliminate common barriers to AP coursework. Students will be able to enroll in AP courses that are not currently offered at their home high school by taking the course online taught by a licensed Tennessee educator who has completed AP training. Common costs associated would be covered such as the AP test fee, educational resources, and textbooks.

Impact on Tennessee

- Approximately 33,000 students currently participate in AP courses in the state of Tennessee. We are proposing a goal of a 15% increase (approximately 5,000 students) in the number of students enrolled and taking exams in AP which would represent the largest increase in exam takers in one year by any state.
- Most states see modest growth in exam takers between 1-3% in a school year.
- AP Access for All will provide training in collaboration with College Board for teachers.
- AP Access for All will reduce the financial barrier for students.
- This initiative will expose students to the best AP teachers in Tennessee.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

APPROXIMATELY **107 SCHOOL DISTRICTS** COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE, **REPRESENTING 84%** OF TENNESSEE DISTRICTS

⚠ **78%** AT-RISK OR DISTRESSED COUNTIES

100 TENNESSEE TEACHERS SIGNED UP TO TEACH AP ACCESS FOR ALL

1,058 STUDENTS ENROLLED

☑ Milestones

- Launch tnapaccessforall.org
- By May 2022, increase participation by 15%
- Minimum of 5,000 students gaining access to AP

Data Dashboards

ⓘ Project Description

A platform for districts and schools to monitor, analyze, and (eventually) predict student readiness for college and career. Using our state's longitudinal data system, we will be able to provide key metrics of college and career readiness to districts in real-time.

Impact on Tennessee

As a result of having access to this data, districts and schools will have the information they need to customize supports and opportunities at a student-level based on the student's specific needs.

☑ Milestones

- Once an external partner is selected, the department will work with the new partner to offer AP courses to any high school in Tennessee starting in the 2021-2022 school year
- Expand AP teacher training to be held in all three grand divisions

CTE Dynamic Instructional Resources (DIR)

ⓘ Project Description

CTE Dynamic Instructional Resources (DIR) will develop a framework and ongoing training to teach CTE teachers how to intentionally evaluate and/or design high-quality CTE instructional materials that are adaptable to virtual, hybrid, and in-person traditional instructional models and support teachers during implementation in their classroom - rather than providing a static curriculum which would need to be updated frequently due to changes in CTE content.

The CTE DIR proposal will build upon prior work in CTE and serve as a sustainability framework for high-quality CTE educator preparation (e.g. Occupational Educator Preparation Programs, Occupational License New Teacher Training, New CTE Director Academy, etc.) and mentoring through peer-to-peer networks and interactions.

The goal of the CTE DIR project is to leverage the lessons learned from prior approaches and other initiatives from the department to successfully and systematically improve CTE instruction which ensures that all Tennessee students have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live – and no matter the content.

Impact on Tennessee

The resources created through the initial two years of CTE DIR will be designed to accommodate various levels of Wi-Fi and technology accessibility in mind, and many of them can be utilized online, downloaded, or printed for later use.

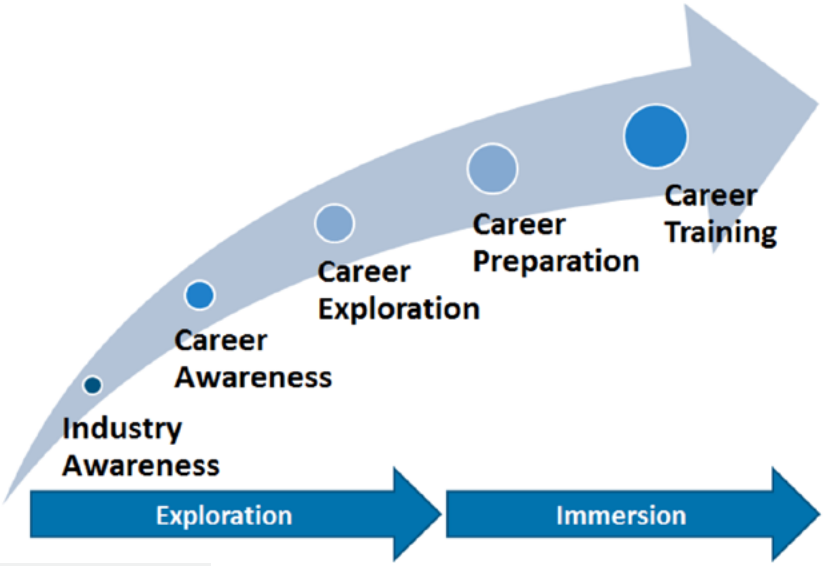
☑ Milestones

- Complete RFP and secure contract by Oct. 1, 2021
- Develop a vision for high-quality CTE instruction
- Train TDOE staff and CTE educators on high-quality CTE instruction
- Develop high-quality instructional resources for prioritized career clusters/programs of study

WBL 2.0 Framework

ⓘ Project Description

The purpose of this new framework is to build stakeholder capacity to offer high-quality capstone WBL opportunities for students, and to establish a common language when discussing topics related to WBL in Tennessee. This updated framework will provide specific examples of promising practices for career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training, along with a glossary of terms related to WBL in Tennessee.



To ensure uniformity and consistency, the department has collaborated with multiple state agencies; including the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Department of Economic & Community Development, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Department of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, among others; as well as various LEAs, the Tennessee Workforce Development Board, and Tennessee Chamber of Commerce throughout the development process. Each partner has committed to implementing the new framework and nomenclature once it is released.

Impact on Tennessee

In conjunction with the Middle School Career Exploration initiative, the Updated WBL Framework and Nomenclature will more clearly define how to align curriculum with the evolving needs of our workforce. Students will have better opportunities to gain practical experience through classroom and job-embedded activities, school counselors will be more informed about career pathways, and educators and administrators will have a better understanding of how to incorporate cross-curricular assignments that align with the needs of their community's employers.

☑ Milestones

- Publish Updated WBL Framework and Nomenclature to WBL and ApprenticeshipTN websites
- Incorporate Updated WBL Framework and Nomenclature into WBL coordinator training, as well as LEA and administrator PD (CTE Director PD, school counselor PD, Summer Institute for CTE Educators)
- Present Updated WBL Framework and Nomenclature to agency partners and external stakeholders
- Solicit feedback on the clarity and effectiveness of the Updated WBL Framework and Nomenclature

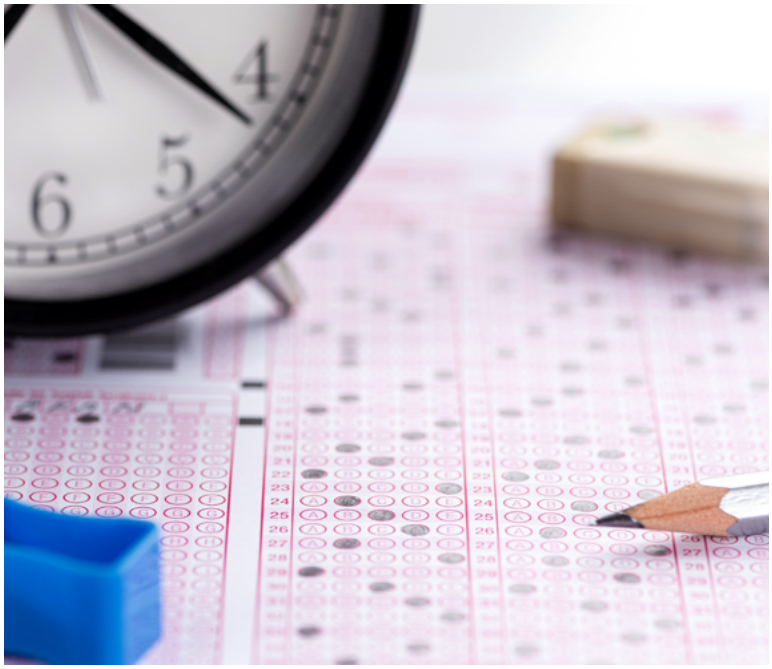
ACT Prep Program

ⓘ Project Description

The purpose of this project is to provide high-quality supports and resources to students and staff to prepare for the ACT. Our goal is to increase the number of students across the state that are college ready, by obtaining a score of 21 or higher.

Impact on Tennessee

The ACT is an access point for college and career options for all Tennessee students. The ACT also determines HOPE scholarship eligibility and if students will be able to enroll in college-level course work once they matriculate to postsecondary education. Currently, Tennessee stands at an average ACT score of 19.4. To ensure that more students are able to attain the benchmark score of 21, providing resources to assist students in preparing for the ACT and supporting teachers and counselors in preparing students for the ACT has the potential to result in positive gains for ACT scores across the state.



STUDENT ATTENDED WORKSHOPS:

457 MATH & SCIENCE
435 ENGLISH & READING
53 MASTERY CLASS

111
TEACHERS TRAINED

☑ Milestones

- Our division recently updated the ACT Toolkit, the ACT Connections, and SAT Connections educator resources, and is pursuing a partnership to offer virtual ACT preparation courses at no charge to high school students across the state
- In collaboration with UT-Martin, this summer we will implement ACT Success Tactics virtual workshops for students across Tennessee. Teachers work in building ACT readiness will be supported through virtual professional development workshops that will assist teachers in doing the following:
- Learn how to obtain, understand, and review their school's ACT data
- Set realistic goals
- How to impact scores
- Learn more about ACT standards and how to connect them to the current standards
- What resources are available to them
- Present new, effective ways to get students to study more critically and consistently for the exam
- Cover strategies that help students cut the clutter the exam gives them in different subjects and focus on the key elements to each section
- Offer stories of success and distress that can better help teachers to plan for and assist the challenges students will encounter when trying to improve their score

Middle School Career Exploration

ⓘ Project Description

The Tennessee Annotated Code 49-6-412 now requires each LEA to administer a career assessment in grades seven or eight, "in order to help inform a student's high school plan of study." Accordingly, the Tennessee Department of Education should, "identify career assessments that LEAs may administer for purposes of this subsection." After compiling and analyzing a wide range of currently available career assessments, members of the CORE and CCTE team convened to strategize promising practices to best support schools and districts as they began to implement this new policy. For the past several months, the cross-functional Career Exploration Team has collaborated to select and procure career assessments from the state-vetted list, recommend administration procedures for district and school leaders, and develop vision and alignment tools between student career assessments, exploration, and advising opportunities.

Impact on Tennessee

Career exploration provides avenues of access to the working world that students will one day enter. It fosters meaningful connections between K-12 academic coursework, lifelong success, and economic opportunity. Supporting districts with career assessment implementation strategies will help schools inform high school class selection and create robust pathways for postsecondary choices. Early career awareness and exploration activities allow students to begin their journey to discover the many ways they can be productive members of their community, as well as contribute to the economic welfare and workforce in the state of Tennessee.

✪ 2020-21 Highlights

ESTABLISHED TDOE TOOLS & RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF CAREER ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY TCA

THAT FOCUS ON ENSURING HIGH-QUALITY, INTENTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TO USE CAREER ASSESSMENT DATA TO INFORM DISTRICT AND STUDENT-CENTERED DECISIONS

LAUNCHED DEFINE CAREER/ELEVATE TN

☑ Milestones

- Implement Middle School Career Exploration pilot programs in two districts per CORE region
- Refine tools and resources to launch project tools statewide in the summer of 2022

Counselor Advisory Council

Project Description

The school counselor advisory council is a collaborative team comprised of school counselors from each ECD region, counselor educators, district and school administrators, and industry partners. This council is in response to the counselor's expressed desire for communication with TDOE regarding local and district school counseling issues. Since the role of the school counselor can vary across schools and districts, the advisory board can assist in providing the state with a picture of how school counseling functions in each of these areas and determining the professional development needs of school counselors.

Impact on Tennessee

The Counselor Advisory Council will help relevant stakeholders understand the needs of school counselors and their students. They will also play a significant role in updating important documents that guide the work of schools counselors (Model and Standards, College and Career Milestones)

2020-21 Highlights

CONDUCT LISTENING SESSIONS FOR COUNSELORS TO EXPRESS NEEDS TO TDOE STAFF

AS OF APRIL 22, RECEIVED OVER 40 (NOMINATIONS/APPLICATIONS)

IN MAY 2021, ESTABLISHED THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL & HELD INITIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Milestones

- Update and make revisions (if needed) to the Tennessee School Counseling Model and Standards
- Update and make revisions (if needed) to the grades 5-12 College and Career Milestones
- Assist in creating the Grades K-4 College and Career Milestones