
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Standards

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “approve all academic standards and adopt rules and policies governing courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03(1) calls for the State Board to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12, and Standards Review Policy 3.209 requires the Department of Education to review the Career and Technical Education (CTE) course standards at a minimum of every three (3) years. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

This item includes revised course standards for the following CTE career clusters:

- Education & Training
 - Early Childhood Education Careers I
 - Early Childhood Education Careers IV

This item includes new courses within the following CTE career clusters:

- Energy and Sustainable Resources (new career cluster)
 - Foundations of Energy
 - Fundamentals of Clean Energy
 - Fundamentals of Nuclear Energy
 - Energy Practicum
- Marketing and Sales (new career cluster)
 - Marketing and Research Analytics I
 - Marketing and Research Analytics II
 - Marketing Management Practicum

The high school CTE courses have been created and updated based on the revised framework of the CTE career clusters and educator feedback to align more closely with Industry and postsecondary needs. Industry partners and secondary and postsecondary educators have reviewed these new and revised standards.

Below is a summary of the revisions to each career cluster:

- The Education and Training career cluster includes proposed standards to remove references to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in the Early Childhood Education Careers courses as well as renaming Early Childhood Education Careers IV to Early Childhood Education Careers Practicum to reflect the course more appropriately.
- The Energy & Sustainable Resources is a new career cluster, including the Clean Energy program of study with four new courses: Foundations of Energy, Fundamentals of Clean Energy, Fundamentals of Nuclear Energy, and Energy Practicum course.

- The Marketing & Sales career cluster is another new career cluster including the Marketing Research and Analytics program of study with three new courses: Marketing and Research Analytics I, Marketing and Research Analytics II, and Marketing Management Practicum.

Additional feedback will be solicited between first and final reading. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-309, the State Board will submit the proposed changes to the education committees of the House and Senate prior to final reading. These CTE courses and standards changes will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year.

Below are the career clusters with revised course standards.

*Indicates a proposed new course

Education and Training	
Early Childhood Education Careers I	Revised standards
Early Childhood Education Careers IV	Course name change from Early Childhood Education Careers IV to Early Childhood Education Careers Practicum; revised standards
Energy & Sustainable Resources	
*Foundations of Energy	New course
*Fundamentals of Clean Energy	New course
*Fundamentals of Nuclear Energy	New course
*Energy Practicum	New course
Marketing & Sales	
*Marketing and Research Analytics I	New course
*Marketing and Research Analytics II	New course
*Marketing Management Practicum	New course

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on postsecondary and career outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring that students develop and demonstrate readiness for their postsecondary or career plans.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.