

### What is Ohio's Career and Technical Education (CTE)?

By law, every Ohio high school student has the opportunity to enroll in CTE. This means that in addition to the standard academic requirements, students take specific classes in their chosen field. Agricultural and Environmental Systems, Health Science, and Manufacturing are just a few of the career fields available. This specialized education is delivered through career centers or in local high schools. Many career-technical programs also offer adult workforce education.

### CTE FAST FACTS\*

**216,894**

Total Number of CTE Students

**127,085**

Number of CTE High School Students

**89,809**

Number of CTE Adult Students

**40+**

Number of Programs Available

### 1. It's About Ohio Jobs

- ◆ As Ohio struggles with high unemployment, Career and Technical Education is part of the solution. CTE educates and prepares Ohio secondary students and adults for many high-skilled, increasingly technical jobs that are going unfilled.
- ◆ The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that by 2014, approximately 45 percent of all U.S. jobs will fall into a "skills gap," requiring more than a high school diploma, but less than a bachelor's degree. Yet, only 25 percent of the workforce will be qualified to successfully perform these jobs<sup>1</sup>. **CTE fills this gap.**

### 2. Career & Technical Education: An Ohio Competitive Advantage

- ◆ Ohio is one of two states in the nation with a comprehensive CTE system. Our CTE system was established in the 1940s with "vocational" facilities across the state to prepare and educate the workforce. Today, Ohio's modern "CTE" system is highly advanced, with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum enabling high school and adult students to obtain highly technical and specialized skills. There are 57 Adult Career Centers integrated within Ohio's 91 Career and Technical Education Planning Districts.
- ◆ CTE is competitive and in tune with local economic and student needs. Though CTE is part of public education, it is a *program of choice* for high school students and their parents.
- ◆ Because CTE relies on voluntary student enrollments and the ability to place students into high-demand occupations, CTE is responsive to the needs of *business and industry partners*, who often help design classes and provide instructors.

### 3. CTE is a Smart Investment

- ◆ CTE offers 40+ secondary programs in skilled trades and career preparation. Our high school students enter the job market with credentials making good wages or go on to college.
- ◆ Adult programs range from two-week certificate classes to longer term credentialing programs.
- ◆ Because CTE prepares secondary students to be ready for work upon graduation and offers adults many shorter term credentialing programs, which take far less time than traditional two- or four-year degrees, this makes CTE one of the most productive and affordable educational investments in Ohio.
- ◆ Examples: An engineering technician can make upwards of \$53,000/yr<sup>2</sup>. A practical nursing student spends nine months in an adult CTE program, at a state investment of \$2,783 and the Ohio LPN mean annual salary is \$39,520<sup>3</sup>.

\*Source: Ohio Department of Education, Office of Career-Technical Education, Ohio Career-Technical Education FY2009 Fact Sheet, 2008-09 School Year

### 4. Career Technical Education Delivers<sup>4</sup>

- ◆ 95% of all CTE adult students get jobs in the field in which they were educated.
- ◆ 94.6% of high school CTE students graduate.
- ◆ 53% of all CTE students enroll in postsecondary or advanced training, compared to 45% for traditional students.
- ◆ Ohio CTE students outperform students in other states by 22% in reading, 19% in science, and 9% in mathematics.
- ◆ CTE students are better prepared for college –just 39% of CTE students entering Ohio's community college need to make up academic ground in remediation courses as opposed to 49% of traditional students. These students are able to progress faster to their degrees or certificates and enter the workforce at a faster rate.

### Policy Recommendations

Career and technical educators and administrators are currently pursuing a number of important legislative initiatives to strengthen and further improve the career and technical education experience in Ohio:

1. Preserve "weighted-funding" for career and technical education planning districts in Ohio's school funding formula. The formula must continue to recognize the increased costs of equipment and supplies required to train Ohioans for the demands of business and industry.
2. Ensure continued funding for adult workforce education at the Ohio Board of Regents for adult workforce development.
3. Modernize the career and technical education system in Ohio through comprehensive legislation, including items such as:
  - ◆ Equitable access to Ohio School Facilities Commission funding for career-technical education for career centers;
  - ◆ Ensure protection from reduced tax revenue when a locality utilizes Tax Increment Financing;
  - ◆ Streamline procedures for the hiring of career-technical instructors straight from industry for adult programs;
  - ◆ Permit career-technical programs flexibility in determining how to cover costs for tools-of-the-trade students need in the workforce;
  - ◆ Modernize the Revised Code to replace "vocational" with "career-technical education" to recognize that CTE encompasses all technical education, including STEM and high skill trades, computer, manufacturing and service industries.

### Career Technical Education Prepares Students For Work Or College In The Following Areas:

- ◆ Agricultural & Environmental Systems
- ◆ Architecture & Construction
- ◆ Arts & Communications
- ◆ Business, Management & Administration
- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Government & Public Administration
- ◆ Health Science
- ◆ Hospitality & Tourism
- ◆ Human Services
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Law & Public Safety
- ◆ Manufacturing
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Science & Engineering
- ◆ Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

### For More Information Contact:

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Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents / 6628 Wild Rose Ln., Westerville, OH, 43082 / p: 512-797-7271 / [www.OhioACTS.org](http://www.OhioACTS.org)

Ohio Association of City Career-Technical Schools / 15 Atterbury Blvd., Ste. 9, Hudson, OH 44236 / p: 330-655-2247/[www.Ohiocareertechccs.com](http://www.Ohiocareertechccs.com)

<sup>1</sup> "The Future of Middle Skills Jobs" Holzer and Lerman, 2009 Report from The Brookings Institution's Center on Children and Families. [http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/02\\_middle\\_skill\\_jobs\\_holzer.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/02_middle_skill_jobs_holzer.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <sup>3</sup> 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics <sup>4</sup> Data: According to an Ohio Department of Education 2010 Ohio School Funding Advisory Report