

2020-2024

OREGON'S CTE STATE PLAN

Executive Summary

Purpose

The Oregon Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Plan is a high level four-year strategic plan that integrates state and federal priorities into an implementation plan for the “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act” (more widely known as Perkins V). Leveraging ongoing partnerships across the state, the CTE State Plan identifies actionable strategies to ensure high-quality learning that is accessible to all learners in Oregon.

Vision for CTE

Oregon will re-imagine and transform learner experiences in order to enhance their future prospects; empower their communities; and ensure equity in an inclusive, sustainable, innovation-based economy.

Highlights of the Plan

Focus on Advancing Equity in CTE

Our commitment to equity means continuous examination of policies, practices, and procedures to ensure access to high-quality CTE programs regardless of a learner’s zip code or other demographic characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status. In order to advance this commitment, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Community College and Workforce Development (CCWD) CTE Team will emphasize the following practices:

1. Focus on equity in rule making, budgeting, and resource allocation processes through a close examination of data and stakeholder feedback to not only identify, but to also interrupt, patterns of inequity.
2. Build fluency and comfort with change with our agencies by continually strengthening systems and partnerships to remove barriers that limit opportunities for participation in, access to, and benefit from CTE.
3. Engage in meaningful collaboration with communities and students who are impacted by decisions about CTE through comprehensive outreach and communication.

Achieving Our Vision

Implementing Oregon’s CTE State Plan and disrupting current inequities in programming, participation and outcomes requires that workforce, higher education, K-12, and business and industry come together to align our work and support our common goals. Our commitment to improved systems alignment and equity now drive our planning.

ODE has collaborated with its partners and stakeholders to identify the following five essential components necessary to transform student experiences and achieve the vision:

1. All learners will benefit from high-quality CTE programs of study leading to meaningful careers in high-skill, high-wage, in-demand careers that provide the individual with a sense of pride and contribution to their communities.
2. All learners, at all age levels, will be empowered with information to successfully navigate career pathways to a meaningful career through intentional exposure and communication about careers.
3. All learners will be able to apply technical and academic learning in education settings and the workplace through work-based learning opportunities.
4. All learners will learn from knowledgeable experts who contextualize learning and create robust integration of academic and technical content.
5. All learners will benefit from flexible learning systems that allow Oregonians to gain necessary skills where and how it best meets their needs.

Developing the CTE State Plan

ODE and CCWD began developing the CTE State Plan with its partners in October 2018 and presented the Plan to Oregon Governor Brown for approval in March 2020. Thoughtful consideration was given on how to engage voices from Oregon's richly diverse communities and stakeholders. ODE and its partners engaged over 1,300 individuals in the planning process, with 65 people serving on workgroups that guided the direction and content of the State Plan.

Matching Goals to the Vision

The extensive guidance provided through the plan development process reinforced that High-quality CTE Programs of Study are key to improving equity and access for all of Oregon's learners. The State Plan includes a series of six robust action plans to ensure intentional progress is made to achieve the vision for Oregon CTE. ODE and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) have operationalized these action plans in order to deliberately avoid maintaining the status quo, both in terms of structures and outcomes.

Oregon's State Plan concludes with 16 appendices that provide detailed data that emanated from the stakeholder collaboration and inclusive process of developing the CTE State Plan. These appendices will be living documents and resources for people leading CTE program development and implementation across the state.

Funding and Accountability

Oregon's State Plan aligns resources and accountability priorities with our state's vision for CTE. By thoughtfully aligning the fiscal, programmatic and accountability aspects of our Plan, we maximize our ability to drive the change necessary in our state to accomplish our vision on behalf of the all learners. The plan identifies accountability measures and budget priorities for the next four years. In partnership with the stakeholders, new performance targets were set that are both reasonable and ambitious.

Key Areas of Focus

CTE has been a strong and important part of Oregon's strategy for positive education and workforce outcomes for students and communities for many years. The success of CTE is well known throughout the state. Building on current successes, the Oregon CTE State Plan provides an intentional shift in focus to grow and improve quality programs through:

- Tighter connections to workforce and employer needs.
- Increased engagement with students, parents, community organizations, employers as well as counselors, advisors, instructors and administrators.
- Statewide models for high-quality programs of study available for schools and colleges to adopt.
- Rich opportunities for students to gain real-world experience and skills through work-based learning; and
- Career exploration beginning at least in middle school and extending through adult education.

In Conclusion:

Oregon's CTE State Plan provides an outline of our state's work over the next four years and focuses on the areas of growth identified by our stakeholders to build on Oregon's CTE Perkins IV Plan. While our new CTE State Plan is ambitious, we can be successful in this Plan if we work together, partner strategically, and continually focus on the needs of our learners and those who have not been successfully included before.

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