



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# Career and Technical Education (CTE)

## TARGETED INDICATORS

IMPROVE STUDENT GRADUATION RATES  
COMPLETION OF INDUSTRY CERTIFICATES

ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS  
ENGAGING STUDENTS IN THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL PLANNING



## OREGON EXAMPLE

Umatilla School District's CTE concentrator graduation rate is over 82 percent, nearly 18 percentage points higher than the district average. Nearly 60 percent of district seniors qualified as CTE concentrators. Umatilla High School's largest CTE Program of Study, Business Management Administration, had 47 senior concentrators in the 2015 graduating class.

Umatilla has emphasized college and career pathways throughout CTE Programs of Study. In the 24 months between the graduation of the class of 2013 and the class of 2015, placement for concentrators in Umatilla School District increased by nearly 50 percent and in 2015 placement was ten percentage points higher than the state average.

## WHY WAS THE STRATEGY CHOSEN?

"CTE is vital to the school and CTE instruction is focused on the needs of individual students and on providing a flexible experience that builds relevant skills." - Heidi Sipe, Umatilla School District Superintendent

## DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a curriculum in which the content, programs and instructional strategies emphasize business, technical and industry workplace skills. Instruction uses standards-based academic content, technical skills and behaviors necessary for success in careers of the 21st century. CTE provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. In total, about 12.5 million high school and college students are enrolled in CTE across the nation. CTE prepares these learners for the world of work by introducing them to workplace competencies, and makes academic content accessible to students by providing it in a hands-on context. In fact, the high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators is about 90%—higher than the national average. CTE culminates in high school graduation and helps students prepare for college and a career.

A high quality CTE program of study focuses not only on technical skills but also on the behaviors and mindsets necessary to succeed in the world of work. Students will have access to participate in Career and Technical Education Student Organizations that engage students co-curricular activities related to the classroom program. These programs give additional support to students and help develop public speaking and leadership skills. These joint programs further enhance students' academic engagement and success.

There is often a misconception that students are either in a CTE or college path, but CTE students are just as likely to pursue a four-year degree as their non- CTE peers, while being more likely to graduate (Dougherty, 2016). High School CTE programs in Oregon must have connections with colleges. These partnerships and the requirement to align programs from high school to college help create a seamless system. Students in CTE programs that also receive guidance not only on the career possibilities available to them, but training options beyond high school will graduate from high school with a plan for their future.



## EVIDENCE THE STRATEGY IS EFFECTIVE

According to the Association for Career & Technical Education, nationwide “the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 13 percentage points higher than the average [cohort] graduation rate.”

A 2013 study from Mississippi State University found that students taking any CTE course graduated at a rate of 78 percent. CTE students in Career Pathways graduated at a rate of 81 percent. Both graduation rates were “considerably higher than the state-reported graduation rate of [74 percent] for all students.” In addition, “purposeful programs of study in career and technical education at the secondary level can not only increase graduation rates, but also create a college and career ready individual.”

A 2016 study of Arkansas students by the Fordham institute found that “the more CTE courses students take, the better their education and labor outcomes,” and that, “[CTE] concentrators are 21 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school than otherwise identical students.” The study also found that after high school, CTE concentrators are “more likely to be employed... have higher average quarterly wages... [and are] more likely to be enrolled in a two-year college than similar, non-concentrators.” (ACT, Inc, 2005)

## FUNDING OF THE STRATEGY

In Oregon, CTE funding comes from a variety of sources which include federal funds, state general fund and industry partnerships. For 2015-2017 Oregon’s largest state grants for secondary CTE funding were Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant (\$5.2M), Career Pathways Funding (\$4.4M) and CTE Revitalization Grants (\$4.5M). In 2016, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 98 which calls for additional CTE funding to Oregon school districts. In the 2017-19 biennium, Oregon lawmakers appropriated \$170-million to the High School Graduation College and Career Ready Fund created by Measure 98.

## THE STRATEGY IS WORKING IN OREGON

“Positive student outcomes are the result of comprehensive high school planning and actions. College-going culture is strong throughout the school and is supported by opportunities like GEAR UP, Success 101, CTE options, and district-paid college tuition.” - *Heidi Sipe, Umatilla School District Superintendent*

"At Umatilla High School, the scaffolding created by administration with the guidance of the counselor and superintendent allows all students at UHS to get a step up on post-secondary pathways. The district not only allows for college credits through the Business Program of Study, they pay for those credits the students pass." – *Keith Gebers, Umatilla High School CTE Business Teacher*

For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/ode](http://www.oregon.gov/ode).

## LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH

### About CTE

<https://www.acteonline.org/aboutcte/#.WYpHmGfrvGg>

### Oregon CTE Report Card

<http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/researchbriefs/Documents/ODE%20Graduation%20Brief%20January%202017.pdf>

### Implementing CTE in Oregon

[http://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/resources/Pages/CTEPOS\\_Approval\\_Admin.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/resources/Pages/CTEPOS_Approval_Admin.aspx)

<http://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/data/Pages/default.aspx>

### CTE and High School Completion

<https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=795#.WYpIIItytph>

<https://careertech.org/resource/cte-does-improve-student-outcomes>

### Need for Career Programs

[https://www.gse.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Pathways\\_to\\_Prosperty\\_Feb2011-1.pdf](https://www.gse.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011-1.pdf)

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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