



Learning that works for South Dakota

CTE[™]



February is CTE Month!

**Join us in celebrating
your local CTE programs.**

What is Career & Technical Education (CTE)?

Career & Technical Education prepares all South Dakota students to be **college & career-ready** by equipping them with academic skills, employability skills, and job-specific technical skills.

CTE courses are offered in middle schools, high schools, technical institutes, and universities in South Dakota.

Within CTE, occupations and career specialties are grouped into **Career Clusters**[®]. Each of the 16 clusters is based on a set of common knowledge and skills that prepare learners for a full range of opportunities.

How is CTE different from vocational education?

In the past, vocational education targeted low-achieving students at the high school level and provided technical training for a few specific jobs in lieu of academic preparation.

Today, Career & Technical Education includes modern, cutting edge programs that align with and support academic courses and that are intended for **all students**, whether their postsecondary plans include an associates, bachelors, or graduate degree.

How can CTE programs help my school?

Career & Technical Education programs provide students with engaging experiences that **make education matter** both in the classroom and in their future career.

Students who take a ratio of one CTE class for every two academic courses are less likely to drop out of high school, and in South Dakota, students who take two or more CTE credits during their high school career **graduate at a rate of 97%**, compared to the statewide average of 82%.

CTE students develop problem solving, research, and communication skills at a higher rate than their peers, and they foster positive school-community relationships through various work-based learning opportunities with local businesses.

More Information

For more information on expanding CTE course offerings in your district, please contact the South Dakota Department of Education at 605-773-3423 or visit www.doe.sd.gov/octe/ctemonth.aspx.

