

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

MODEL POLICY | FEB. 2026

OVERVIEW

To pursue strong career options, students need high-quality CTE programs that are rigorous, relevant, and aligned to in-demand credentials that build the knowledge and skills employers and postsecondary programs expect. These pathways must align to the workforce students will enter after graduation so students can successfully transition into postsecondary education, training, or a living wage career.

This model policy requires districts to align CTE programs to future high-demand, high-wage careers using job market, student outcome, and industry trend data. It establishes expectations for regularly reviewing and updating CTE pathways to ensure they remain relevant and effective. The policy also protects students by requiring transition plans when programs change, so students can complete a full program without interruption.

MODEL POLICY

To ensure every student has access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) pathways aligned to meaningful postsecondary opportunities, the District shall identify and offer CTE courses and programs based on alignment to high-wage and high-demand occupations, student outcome data, research-based best practices, and, to the extent available, industry growth projections. The District shall ensure that all students have access to a coherent sequence of CTE courses within aligned programs of study that culminate in an in-demand, industry-recognized credential.

At least every five years, the District shall revisit the CTE courses and programs of study offered and make adjustments as necessary. As much as practicable, the District shall try to align their timeline for revisions to coincide with any announced alterations made to state policy for career and technical education programming and course credits. If the District intends to sunset an existing program of study or introduce a new program of study, the District shall develop a transition plan, which must include a phase out/in strategy to ensure current students are able to finish their CTE program sequence without interruption.

As much as practicable, programs of study shall offer students the opportunity to pursue both CTE programming and advanced academic coursework aligned to college credit.