

# Jefferson County R-1

## Background

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The CTE Division of Jeffco Public Schools is dedicated to preparing all students in Jefferson County, Colorado for careers and lifelong learning. Their mission is to connect classrooms, careers, businesses, and communities to create a systemic change that positively impacts the future of the workforce. Jefferson County has CTE programs in neighborhood high schools as well as at their premier career and technical school, Warren Tech. Several programs offer academic, elective, and college credit.

Warren Tech offers State approved career and technical education programs such as Collision Repair, Entertainment and Event Planning, Cosmetology, Computer Technician, Biotechnology, Culinary Arts, Graphic Design, Video Game Programming, and many more. Students age 16 and older attend Warren Tech for half of the day and their home school the other half-day. Several programs offer academic, elective, and college credit.

Each neighborhood school has Career and Technical Education Programs. Typically, school programs include: Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE), Business, Family and Consumer Studies (FACS), Graphics/Photo, Health, Marketing, Technical Education/Technology and Work Experience Study (WES). Additionally, the District's alternative programs of Long View High School, McLain Achieve and McLain ACE also have some elements of Career and Technical Education built into each.

## Key Innovation(s)

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The District's CTE Division has championed the designation of ***District-wide CTE Content Leads and CTE Building Leads at each school***. This has facilitated more efficiency and communication, the building of leadership capacity, the creation of district-wide CTE teams and the strengthening of CTE and individual schools.

To facilitate progression along CTE instructional pathways, the District develops ***six-year graduation plans*** for students starting in 7th grade.

The District is developing career plans of study. When these plans are complete they will be featured on a statewide college-promotion site, "collegeincolorado.com", with links back to the District's offerings. The CTE Division is strengthening ties between industry, its CTE teachers and its academic instructors via its ***Teacher Exchange Program***. The program, impacting 20 teachers per year, affords the opportunity for instructors to interact with CTE and academic faculty as well as representatives from industry.

All programs at Warren Tech give students CTE and academic dual credit. Such dual credit increases opportunities for students to pursue electives, including CTE, academic and/or post secondary.

The District has implemented an in-house teacher credentialing program. This program furnishes courses

that are offered within the district to meet credentialing requirements. The program is cost effective and courses can be customized to the District’s needs to make the offerings more relevant to their CTE teachers.

The District’s CTE Division also operates a **“Wish List” program** in which teachers submit a wish list for projects they want to implement. When projects are funded, teachers usually have to request partial funding from their respective school’s budget. This increases project buy-in at the building level.

The District has a strong relationship with Red Rocks Community College with regard to its secondary programs that transition into postsecondary programs in areas such as: welding, cosmetology, automotive, precision machining and Computer Aided Design (CAD.) The District also offers concurrent enrollment between Warren Tech and Red Rocks Community College to enable students to progress toward a college degree while satisfying their high school requirements.

In the future, the CTE Division believes non-traditional professionals should be brought in to introduce their occupations to middle school students in order to encourage non-traditional students. The division believes a source for these professionals would be within the membership of advisory committees.

## Key Factors to Implementation

The CTE Division ensures the District’s CTE teachers receive appropriate software support to help them keep current with industry standards. Further, the CTE Division provides additional support through CTE resource materials. This is demonstrated by action items generated by the CTE teachers’ wish lists (referenced in key innovations).

When CTE teachers are able to take advantage of professional development opportunities during the School Year, the District’s CTE Division furnishes substitute teachers to permit them to participate. Professional development is also presented in coordination with Red Rocks Community College. Teachers are also paid for professional development during the summer.

To ensure CTE has a fair place in advising, one counselor in each school is designated as a **“CTE counselor;”** the District’s career counselors meet monthly.

To spread awareness of the opportunities available at Warren Tech, each Spring, every 8th grader is given the chance to be transported to the center and exposed to its myriad of CTE opportunities.

The District is embarking on the creation of an “Academy” high school at its Green Mountain High School that lets students enroll in a choice of four academies based on their interests: Business and Global Studies, Health and Human Services; Art, Humanities and Performance, and Math, Science and Technology (each of these will have a CTE component). The aim of this operation is to provide students with a

rigorous and relevant academic pathway to prepare them for 21st century careers. In the upcoming year, the District’s CTE division is hoping to facilitate this new model by providing support to congeal its staff as a group while having its CTE teachers take a leadership role. The District’s Warren Tech will work closely with Green Mountain’s principal and staff to ensure CTE standards are met.

The District is currently implementing a *Curriculum Alignment Program* aimed at standardizing curriculum across the district. This program will also impact career academic plans.

The Division believes it is critical to increase awareness about CTE among parents and the community to counter the ongoing stigma and negative thinking that CTE is only for “some students.”

The Division believes continued business and industry advisory committee support is needed. Minutes and rosters of advisory committees are submitted to the Division. The Division is currently undertaking an effort to standardize and restructure the District’s CTE advisory committees.

## RESULTS

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The District’s CTE programs have proven to be worthy of excellent support from the school board and superintendent. The Division believes there is an important correlation between CTE and the graduation rate. In fact, they believe that schools with high numbers of CTE programs and high student enrollment may have a higher percentage of graduates than schools with fewer CTE programs and fewer CTE enrollees.

To provide CTE opportunities closer-to-home in the northern end of the district, “Warren Tech North” opened this year. It is located on the Arvada West High School campus. Some of the District’s CTE programs have been so successful that they have waiting lists.

The District is in the midst of improving its ability to track student results. For instance, Data Warehouse is being developed at the district level and Cognos, a powerful data mining software, is being implemented. CTE program directors will be able to query Cognos for whatever data is needed to monitor performance metrics, number of students and any special demographics.

Postsecondary concurrency is currently tracked. There is good documentation between four local community colleges and the District regarding 4000+ hours of concurrent credits. Further, there is cross-walking with different programs between Warren Tech and Red Rocks Community College.

Another result/innovation the Division has achieved has been the creation of CTE Academic Courses. As such, the District has created a partnership with Red Rocks Community College to create high school academic courses that combine academic rigor with real-world relevancy. Students who successfully complete those courses are then eligible for credit from Red Rocks Community College. Some of these practical “real-world” courses include: Algebra Principles (in the Business World), Geometry Principles (in the Construction Industry), Algebra II Principles (in Process Technology Industries), Process Technology I and Process Technology II.