



"Since becoming Governor, I have made education policy one of the highest priorities of my administration, as I believe strongly that the development of a highly educated workforce is a fundamental element of the expansion and vigor of the state's economy. Critical to this relationship is Career and Technical Education (CTE)."

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor, State of Colorado

2007-08 Data Snapshot:

Over 116,600 enrollments in over 1200 secondary programs in nearly 160 school districts.

Over 24,000 enrollments in nearly 700 postsecondary CTE programs at the 13 system community colleges, 2 local district colleges, one four year college, 4 technical colleges, and both adult and youth state correctional facilities.



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Real Change

Colorado's 21st Century Career & Technical Education (CTE) has evolved beyond your mother or father's vocational education. It is Colorado's best kept secret...

- For **relevant & rigorous learning**
- For **raising achievement among all students**
- For **strengthening Colorado's workforce & economy**

Real Choices

Colorado CTE is designed to help students, young and experienced, male and female, choose a career path, pick the learning needed, build the right skills and knowledge, and get into a great job in a field they will love. Programs are organized around 17 Career Clusters and 81 Career Pathways opening opportunities for all students to pursue their passion!

Today's generation of CTE programs are totally integrated with the academic courses needed to prepare students for College and Career success. Programs allow students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. All students gain the academic knowledge and technical skills required for the best jobs in Colorado's hottest careers, along with the skills the entire working world demands—like problem solving, being a team player, and being organized.

CTE students get a head start in higher education and the job market, and an opportunity to earn more, sooner. **For real.**

Real Careers

Colorado CTE offers plans of study for high wage, high demand and high skill careers in the following industries:

- Energy
- Aerospace
- Biotechnology
- Health Science

For a full list of pathways available go to:

<http://www.coloradostateplan.com/clusters/CareerClustersModel.pdf>

Real Impact

- One out of every three Colorado high school students is gaining the valuable experience of Career & Technical Education.
- Many of the occupations for which CTE students train are listed among the 50 fastest-growing occupations in Colorado over the next eight years.
- "At a time when the average four-year college student graduates with \$17,520 in debt, and one in four students graduate owing more than \$22,000, 'learn and earn' career pathways that alternate education with lucrative work experiences are good options for many students" - *Colorado Succeeds*
- Nearly 80% of Colorado jobs will require some form of postsecondary education and 60% will require at least a 2-year, but not a 4-year, degree.
- The National Dropout Prevention Center lists CTE as one of 15 research based strategies for improving high school graduation rates.

Real Direction

- CTE is a critical part of any strategy to keep the state economy strong as it endures the recession
- CTE increases student achievement by linking academics with their application.
- CTE is an effective education reform and improvement strategy.
- CTE prepares Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workers
- CTE is the source of a highly skilled, well-educated workforce.