



COLORADO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Joint Budget Committee, House Education Committee,  
and Senate Education Committee

From: Nancy McCallin, President, Colorado Community College System

Date: February 20, 2017

Re: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Technical Act (CTA) Report for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

This report contains accountability information concerning career and technical education (CTE) in the public school districts of Colorado for the 2015-16 year. CCCS respectfully submits this report to the Joint Budget Committee and House and Senate Education Committees in compliance with the State Career Technical Act of 2008 (formerly the Colorado Vocational Act of 1970).

The CTE programs offered through Colorado's high schools are an important part of the comprehensive delivery system of CTE in the state. These programs are fundamental to the economic vitality and future development of local communities and the State of Colorado. CTE has strong ties to the community, business and industry. More than 5,000 community and business leaders serve on advisory committees and councils supporting CTE programs.

The general assembly provided \$27,139,363.00 to assist 141 school districts and charter schools in funding nearly 1,300 secondary CTE programs that were reported from the 2015-16 school year. Statewide, there were 128,937 total high school secondary CTE student enrollments (100,552 individual secondary CTE students) in 141 public school districts, eight technical centers, three community colleges, one four-year college, and three area technical colleges. In addition, there were 23,687 total middle school CTE student enrollments in 64 public school districts.

**Students Served:** Of the 128,937 total secondary CTE enrollments, 32% were identified as economically disadvantaged and 12% as disabled. Minority students represented 40% of total CTE students. Nearly 30,000 students mastered leadership & workforce readiness skills through participation in nine CTE student organizations as state affiliated members. Forty Two percent of the total 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade secondary students in Colorado were enrolled in at least one CTE program in 2015-16. The information above is based on duplicated headcount data. The unduplicated headcount within a career cluster is listed in Exhibit 1.

**Job Placement:** In 2015-16, there were 69,337 total CTE program completions (60,248 individual CTE students). Of the 2015-16 program completers who were seeking employment and who schools were able to contact, 87% of those seeking jobs had obtained employment within a year following program completion. The information above is based on duplicated headcount within a career cluster. Exhibit 1 shows the unduplicated headcount data.

**Colorado's Investment in CTE:** Over the last 40+ years, appropriations for the Career Technical Act have dropped in proportion to the dramatic increase of the actual cost of CTE programs. In 1971-72, the General Assembly provided just over 58 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs (Actual cost: \$11.16 million, state funding: \$6.5 million). In 2015-16, the General Assembly provided 25 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs. (Actual cost from FY16 reported expenses: \$100 million, state funding: \$25 million).

**Colorado Career Clusters & Pathways:** With the passage of the reauthorization of the federal Perkins Act in 2006, Colorado updated its CTE program areas to reflect the national movement toward Career Clusters and Career Pathways. Colorado grouped the Career Clusters into 6 Industry Sectors that reflect the unique economy of Colorado.

Colorado CTE is designed to help students, young and experienced, 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. CTE programs are organized around 17 Career Clusters and 82 Career Pathways opening opportunities for all students to pursue their passion.

Additionally, CCCS approves special programs for at-risk students called Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) programs. In addition, a few CTE programs, called Multi-Occupational programs, are for small high schools that do not have sufficient enrollment to justify specialized CTE programs.

Exhibit 1 depicts unduplicated secondary headcount data within each cluster. A student may count in multiple clusters because he/she takes a CTE course in various clusters in an academic year. Many students choose to take more than one CTE class each year and when all of the 2015-16 students are counted within each class, enrollment is at 128,937. When duplication across and within clusters is removed from the data, there were 100,522 individual secondary students enrolled.

Including administrative costs for districts, Colorado spent over \$100 million educating secondary and middle students in CTE programs. This breaks down to an average cost per student FTE of \$9000 for the 2015-16 year.<sup>1</sup> CTA funding helps to offset one quarter (\$25 million) of the cost of these important programs. This investment helps Colorado maintain high-quality career and technical education programs that produce workers who are ready for high-skill careers.

Exhibit 1: Fiscal year 2015-16 CTE Student and Cost Information

FY 2015-16 Colorado Career Clusters	FY 2015-16 middle school student enrollment	FY 2015-16 secondary student enrollment	FY 2015-16 secondary student completion	FY 2014-15 secondary students employed	FY 2015-16 student FTE	FY 2015-16 school district cost	FY 2015-16 cost per student FTE
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Cluster	642	6626	5418	2074	897.71	\$8,268,411.93	\$9,210.56
Architecture & Construction Cluster	N/A	7690	3874	906	586.09	\$5,400,029.74	\$9,213.65
Arts, A/V Technology and Communication Cluster	387	14757	8072	1408	1344.64	\$10,028,052.10	\$7,457.80
Education & Training Cluster	N/A	764	657	204	50.02	\$582,149.37	\$11,638.33
Energy Cluster	N/A	0	0	0	0.21	\$2,000.00	\$9,523.81
Health Science Cluster	N/A	2312	1821	666	462.83	\$4,474,174.19	\$9,666.99
Hospitality & Tourism Cluster	N/A	8868	3847	1524	701.45	\$4,777,563.25	\$6,810.98
Human Services Cluster	2641	1272	839	420	440.47	\$3,060,664.59	\$6,948.63
Information Technology Cluster	587	8254	3724	516	574.15	\$4,609,594.36	\$8,028.55
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security Cluster	24	725	698	307	127.33	\$1,460,429.36	\$11,469.64
Management and Administration Cluster	500	27964	12900	3734	2136.06	\$14,257,402.54	\$6,674.63
Manufacturing Cluster	N/A	7061	3808	1134	690.69	\$5,864,528.15	\$8,490.83
Marketing Cluster	N/A	10765	7628	2493	785.57	\$5,838,786.19	\$7,432.55
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Cluster	12954	18615	7173	3033	1868.38	\$16,379,308.38	\$8,766.58
STEM Cluster	5919	8373	6152	757	1171.03	\$8,442,985.45	\$7,209.88
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Cluster	N/A	3300	2099	917	535.15	\$5,020,127.82	\$9,380.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>23654</b>	<b>127346</b>	<b>68710</b>	<b>20093</b>	<b>12371.78</b>	<b>\$98,466,207.42</b>	

N/A in middle school student enrollment column means there are no existing CTE programs in the career cluster.

- (1) Counts are all unduplicated within each cluster, but a student could be enrolled in multiple clusters.
- (2) Employed includes related to training, unrelated to training, and military service full or part time.