



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 19, 2015

Re: 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Technical Act (CTA) Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

This report contains accountability information concerning career and technical education (CTE) in the public schools districts of Colorado for the 2013-14 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 and business and industry. More than 5,000 community and business leaders serve on advisory committees and councils supporting CTE programs.

The general assembly provided \$24,983,788 to assist 152 school districts and charter schools in funding over 1,300 secondary CTE programs that were reported from the 2013-2014 school year. Statewide, there were 120,702 total high school secondary CTE student enrollments (96,037 individual secondary CTE students) in 147 public school districts, one special school, eight technical centers, three community colleges, one four-year college, and three area technical colleges. In addition, there were 14,527 total middle school CTE student enrollments (13,756 individual middle school CTE students) in 37 public school districts.

**Students Served:** Of the 120,702 total secondary CTE enrollments, 28% were identified as economically disadvantaged and 12% as disabled. Minority students represented 38% of total CTE students. Nearly 30,000 students mastered leadership & workforce readiness skills through participation in nine CTE student organizations as state affiliated members. Thirty-eight 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 2013-14. The information above is based on duplicated headcount data. The unduplicated headcount within a career cluster is listed in Exhibit 1.

**Job Placement:** In 2012-13, there were 52,051 total CTE program completions (46,714 individual CTE students). Of the 2012-13 program completers who were seeking employment and who schools were able to contact, 84% 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 2013-14, the General Assembly provided 26 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs. (Actual cost from FY14 reported expenses: \$96 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 below 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 2013-2014 students are counted within each class, enrollment is at 120,702. When duplication across and within clusters is removed from the data, there were 96,037 individual secondary students enrolled.

After including administrative costs for districts, Colorado spent over \$96 million educating secondary and middle students in CTE programs. This breaks down to an average cost per student FTE of \$8,753 for the 2013-2014 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 2013-14 CTE Student and Cost Information

FY 2013-14 Colorado Career Clusters	FY 2013-14 middle school student enrollment (1)	FY 2013-14 secondary student enrollment (1)	FY 2013-14 secondary student completion	FY 2012-13 secondary students employed (2)	FY 2013-14 student FTE	FY 2013-14 school district cost	FY 2013-14 cost per student FTE
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Cluster	612	5704	4540	1677	850	\$7,641,902	\$8,989
Architecture & Construction Cluster	N/A	6997	3731	744	682	\$5,263,392	\$7,713
Arts, A/V Technology & Communication Cluster	204	12492	5517	963	1151	\$8,348,070	\$7,251
Education & Training Cluster	N/A	511	449	104	38	\$638,842	\$17,009
Energy Cluster	N/A	79	75	21	33	\$381,081	\$11,461
Health Science Cluster	N/A	2209	1672	641	452	\$4,073,106	\$9,018
Hospitality & Tourism Cluster	N/A	9284	4127	1132	690	\$4,914,239	\$7,117
Human Services Cluster	1655	1485	821	341	381	\$2,773,172	\$7,276
Information Technology Cluster	600	5212	1946	245	520	\$3,869,307	\$7,438
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Cluster	N/A	743	679	146	186	\$1,286,458	\$6,929
Management & Administration Cluster	499	31238	13523	3703	2424	\$15,556,591	\$6,418
Manufacturing Cluster	N/A	6478	3436	651	650	\$4,871,788	\$7,490
Marketing Cluster	N/A	8452	5885	2209	746	\$5,925,481	\$7,939
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Cluster	6188	17413	6607	2494	1574	\$13,853,619	\$8,800
STEM Cluster	4737	7705	4705	589	790	\$6,011,821	\$7,609
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Cluster	N/A	3051	1834	636	484	\$4,295,499	\$8,877
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,495</b>	<b>119,053</b>	<b>59,547</b>	<b>16,296</b>	<b>11,653</b>	<b>\$89,704,367</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.