



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 17, 2016

Re: 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Technical Act (CTA) Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

This report contains accountability information concerning career and technical education (CTE) in the public school districts of Colorado for the 2014-15 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 middle and 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 \$25,436,648 to assist 141 school districts and charter schools in funding just over 1,300 secondary CTE programs that were reported from the 2014-2015 school year. Statewide, there were 125,182 total high school secondary CTE student enrollments (96,854 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 20,721 total middle school CTE student enrollments (19,606 individual middle school CTE students) in 37 public school districts.

**Students Served:** Of the 125,182 total secondary CTE enrollments, 31% were identified as economically disadvantaged and 9% 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 2014-15. The information above is based on duplicated headcount data. The unduplicated headcount within a career cluster is listed in Exhibit 1.

**Job Placement:** In 2013-14, there were 60,055 total CTE program completions (53,090 individual CTE students). Of the 2013-14 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 2014-15, the General Assembly provided 25 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs. (Actual cost from FY15 reported expenses: \$97 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 2014-15 students are counted within each class, enrollment is at 125,182. When duplication across and within clusters is removed from the data, there were 96,854 individual secondary students enrolled.

Including administrative costs for districts, Colorado spent over \$97 million educating secondary and middle students in CTE programs. This breaks down to an average cost per student FTE of \$9270 for the 2014-2015 year. 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 2014-15 CTE Student and Cost Information

FY 2014-15 Colorado Career Clusters	FY 2014-15 middle school student enrollment (1)	FY 2014-15 secondary student enrollment (1)	FY 2014-15 secondary student completion	FY 2013-14 secondary students employed (2)	FY 2014-15 student FTE	FY 2014-15 school district cost	FY 2014-15 cost per student FTE
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Cluster	526	6081	4967	1517	807	\$8,206,013	\$10,169
Architecture & Construction Cluster	N/A	8466	4132	807	598	\$5,286,447	\$8,840
Arts, A/V Technology & Communication Cluster	436	13287	6356	1227	1118	\$8,503,202	\$7,606
Education & Training Cluster	N/A	639	536	108	59	\$727,457	\$12,330
Energy Cluster	N/A	0	0	49	22	\$165,084	\$7,504
Health Science Cluster	N/A	2417	1814	660	414	\$4,307,647	\$10,405
Hospitality & Tourism Cluster	N/A	9404	3933	1458	686	\$4,649,519	\$6,778
Human Services Cluster	2616	1404	752	483	363	\$2,756,191	\$7,593
Information Technology Cluster	566	7498	2916	404	531	\$4,223,258	\$7,953
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Cluster	N/A	806	761	258	143	\$1,274,699	\$8,914
Management & Administration Cluster	444	29563	12415	3534	2099	\$14,630,167	\$6,970
Manufacturing Cluster	N/A	6229	3364	969	593	\$5,265,431	\$8,879
Marketing Cluster	N/A	9533	6527	2093	763	\$5,768,052	\$7,560
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Cluster	9661	18598	7070	2769	1742	\$14,617,794	\$8,391
STEM Cluster	6414	6909	5121	548	980	\$6,882,282	\$7,023
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Cluster	N/A	2935	1847	842	449	\$4,600,983	\$10,247
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,663</b>	<b>123,769</b>	<b>62,511</b>	<b>17,726</b>	<b>11,367</b>	<b>\$91,864,226</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.