

# Glossary of Terms related to Career Technical Education (CTE)

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## **“a-g” Subject Requirements**

These letters represent different academic areas and are assigned to courses that have been certified by the state as meeting the criteria for students to be able to matriculate into the UC and Cal State systems.<sup>1</sup>

## **All aspects of Industry**

Strong experience in, and comprehensive understanding of, the industry that the individual is preparing to enter

## **Articulation Agreement**

A written commitment... to a program that is designed to provide students with a nonduplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to technical skills proficiency, a credential, a certificate or a degree and is linked through credit transfer agreements between the two institutions.

## **ASES**

CDE-funded *After School Educational and Safety* programs.

## **ASSETS**

21st Century High School-funded *After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens* Program

## **California Department of Education (CDE)**

The government office in Sacramento that provides leadership, assistance, oversight and resources and enforces education law and legislation for California’s public schools from Pre-K to Adult, but not community colleges

## **California Partnership Academy (CPA)**

A career academy that has been approved by **CDE** and awarded an ongoing grant to help sustain the program and keep it in compliance with state requirements

## **California State Plan for Career Technical Education**

Plan for Career Technical Education approved in March 2008 by both the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, establishes the vision, goals, and essential elements of a world-class career technical education system.

## **Capstone Course**

In an established and coherent *sequence of courses*, this is the final, most advanced course where students apply their learning from the preceding courses.

## **Career Academy**

A career-themed school-within-a-school where students work as a cohort and the teachers common-plan so that academic and career content are fully integrated and contextualized. A career academy must contain at least one *CTE pathway* and may have several.

## **Career Clusters**

Broad career areas that serve as an organizing structure for the 15 Industry Sectors in order to provide technical assistance, support CTE student leadership organizations, and facilitate professional development<sup>2</sup>

## **Career Guidance and Academic Counseling**

Providing access to information regarding career awareness and planning with respect to an individual’s occupational and academic future that shall involve guidance and counseling with respect to career options, financial aid, and postsecondary options. Students, and parents,

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<sup>1</sup> (a) History/Social Science, (b) English, (c) Mathematics, (d) Laboratory Science (e) Languages Other Than English, (f) Visual and Performing Arts, and (g) College Preparatory Electives

<sup>2</sup> Agriculture Education, Business and Marketing Education, Health and Human Services Education, Home Economics Careers and Technology Education, Industrial and Technology Education, Arts, Media and Entertainment Education

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when appropriate, should be the recipients of the information. ...Baccalaureate degree programs as an option.

## **Career Pathway**

See **CTE Pathway**

## **Career Technical Education (CTE)**

Organized educational activities that offer a sequence of courses that provides individuals with coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills need to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions, provides technical skill proficiency, an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree

## **Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (Perkins)**

Federal legislation that provides approximately \$140 million annually in funding to improve California's career technical education programs, integrate academic and career technical instruction, and serve special populations.

## **CDE**

See **California Department of Education**

## **Certification**

End of sequence industry-approved certificate indicating competency and readiness for entry-level employment in a specific career field.

## **Clusters**

See **Career Clusters**

## **Clusters of opportunity**

Sectors of the economy identified by growth in one or more areas: value, jobs or wages.<sup>3</sup>

## **Cooperative Work Experience Education (Co-op)**

A form of work-based learning that occurs at times and locations agreed upon by the employer, student, and supervising faculty member. These types of programs can provide flexible vehicles for expanding student access to valuable learning opportunities that enhance and extend classroom-based curricula

## **Core Indicators**

Perkins-identified areas where student performance must be measured and reported

## **CPA**

See **California Partnership Academy**

## **Credit by Exam**

A method approved by the Community Colleges for granting credit for students who have completed introductory coursework at the high school level. Students must either take an actual exam administered by the college or successfully complete a high school course where the college has agreed to accept a letter grade of B or better as the "exam."

## **CTE**

See **Career Technical Education**

## **CTE Framework**

Published guidelines for interpreting the *CTE Model Curriculum Standards* and converting them into instruction in the classroom. They follow exactly the *industry* sectors and career pathways in the standards. **Standards** are the "what" of CTE instruction, and frameworks are the "how."

## **CTE Pathway**

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<sup>3</sup> California Regional Economies Project Clusters of Opportunity

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A sequence of courses, some of which may be academic, that leads to competency in a specific career field and meets the definition of *CTE*. There are 58 pathways defined in the state's *CTE Standards and Frameworks*.

## **CTE Program**

A program including at least one CTE pathway and is part of a school's instructional plan.

## **CTE Model Curriculum Standards**

Rigorous, relevant and research-based Model Curriculum Standards for CTE instruction in all of California's *Industry Sectors* and Career Pathways for students in grades seven through twelve. Standards are the "what" of CTE instruction, and **frameworks** are the "how."

## **Dedicated Counseling**

Where only one counselor is scheduling students into a specific CTE program, pathway or academy. This is a critical element to ensuring that students follow a sequence and are not placed incorrectly or "dumped" into single classes that don't lead to mastery.

## **Dual or Concurrent Credit**

Mutually agreed-upon instructional programs that allow students to gain community college credits while still in high school. The instruction happens on *high school* campuses.

## **Dual or Concurrent Enrollment**

Mutually agreed-upon instructional programs that allow students to gain community college credits while still in high school. The instruction happens on *community college* campuses.

## **Foundation Standards**

Those standards in the CTE Standards publication that all students need to master to be successful in training and the workplace. They include academic skills as well as soft skills.

## **Free and Reduced Lunch program**

Federal funding that pays for meals for low income students. A school's (or district's) percentage of kids on FRL often determines supplemental funding.

## **GED**

Designed as an equivalent to a high school diploma, a test of different competencies intended for adults who didn't complete school to show adequate ability and knowledge for employment

## **Industry Sectors**

All high-wage, high-growth careers in California are categorized under one of these fifteen overarching career areas, each of which contain specific *Career Pathways* for which schools can design instructional course sequences.

## **Linked Learning**

Name recently created by organizations supporting and advocating for CTE as High School Reform, specifically Career Academies, for **Multiple Pathways**.

## **Multiple Pathways**

An instructional system that gives students choices of multi-year CTE programs which prepare young people for career and further education and/or training. Each must contain academic rigor, technical training, work-based learning and support services. Now being called **Linked Learning**.

## **NCLB**

See **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**

## **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)**

Legislation that aims to improve the performance of primary and secondary schools and is based on four principles<sup>4</sup> ...and requires that teachers be "highly qualified" ...that progress of all

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<sup>4</sup> Accountability for results, more choices for parents, greater local control and flexibility, and an emphasis on doing what works based on scientific research

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students be measured annually for math and reading, that teaching strategies are based on scientifically based research, and that schools identified as “needing improvement” will offer eligible students supplemental educational services or allow them to transfer to better performing schools.

## **Nontraditional Fields**

Occupations of fields of work, including careers in computer science, technology, and other emerging high-skill occupations, for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work

## **Open -Entry /Open -Exit Programming**

Structure that allow adults (usually) with multiple priorities to access “just-in-time” training to further their careers by enrolling and exiting courses as they are able

## **Perkins Grant**

See **Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (Perkins)**

## **Program of Study**

A program that incorporates secondary and postsecondary elements; includes coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant CTE in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education; and leads to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

## **QZABs**

Qualified Zone Academy Bonds allow districts to secure no-interest loans in order to fund equipment and renovation of existing school facilities in order to accommodate CTE programs.

## **Regional Occupational Program (ROP)**

Specially-funded state program that provides CTE courses and sequences that lead to certification and employment

## **ROP**

See **Regional Occupational Program**

## **SB70 Grant**

California’s “Governor’s CTE Grant” designed to serve secondary students by enhancing CTE programs with, among other forms of support, articulation agreements with community colleges. Funds are administered by the colleges.

## **SCANS**

See **Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills**

## **Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills Report (SCANS)**

Set of skills and competencies identified in a report by the US Department of Labor<sup>5</sup> that young people need in order to succeed in the world of work. They include life (soft) skills, academics, interpersonal, problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills.

## **Sequence of Courses**

Carefully planned courses that lead from the first, introductory, course to the **capstone** course. A sequence must include a *minimum* (or equivalent) of two one-year courses and may contain academic courses as well as the CTE.

## **Special Populations**

Individuals with identified “barriers to success” who must be served by recipients of state and federal funding<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> In collaboration with the US Department of Education

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## **Standards**

See **CTE Model Curriculum Standards**

## **WIA**

See **Workforce Investment Act**

## **Work Experience**

Employment preparation opportunities for students, including job-shadowing, unpaid internships and paid employment

## **Work Experience Education**

CDE-approved, credit-bearing courses that provide students with the opportunity to work in real-world environments while supervised by worksite mentors as well as credentialed secondary teachers who instruct in appropriate curriculum (typically aligned with English Language Arts). Districts must have District WEE plan approved by the state.

## **Work-based Learning**

Umbrella term that covers **Work Experience**, **Work Experience Education** and other career exploration activities that help students become work-ready

## **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

Federal legislation that requires states to carry out a range of workforce development activities, such as training and tutoring, through statewide and local “Workforce Investment Boards,” to benefit job seekers and dislocated workers, as well as youth, veterans, persons with disabilities, and employers.

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<sup>6</sup> Individuals with disabilities; individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children; single parents, including single pregnant women; displaced homemakers; individuals with limited English proficiency; and individuals preparing for nontraditional fields.