



Learning that works for South Dakota

CTETM



February is CTE Month!

**Join us in celebrating
your local CTE programs.**

What is Career & Technical Education (CTE)?

Career & Technical Education prepares all South Dakota students to be **college & career-ready** by equipping them with academic skills, employability skills, and job-specific technical skills.

CTE courses are offered in middle schools, high schools, technical institutes, and universities in South Dakota.

Within CTE, occupations and career specialties are grouped into **Career Clusters**[®]. Each of the 16 clusters is based on a set of common knowledge and skills that prepare learners for a full range of opportunities.

How is CTE different from vocational education?

In the past, vocational education targeted low-achieving students at the high school level, and provided technical training for a few specific jobs in lieu of academic preparation.

Today, Career & Technical Education include modern, cutting edge programs that align with and support academic courses and that are intended for **all students**, whether their postsecondary plans include an associates, bachelors, or graduate degree.

How can CTE programs help my student?

Career & Technical Education programs provide students with engaging experiences that **make education matter** both in the classroom and in their future career.

Students in South Dakota who take CTE courses during their high school career **have the chance to:**

- Earn college credit & industry certifications
- Develop leadership & problem solving skills
- Apply what they learn in academic courses
- Work with professionals in the field

CTE students discover the wide range of career options available to them and are more prepared and focused when they enter college. **Students save both time and money** during their postsecondary career and are more likely to complete a degree in their chosen field.

More Information

For more information on enrolling your student in a CTE course in your district, please contact the South Dakota Department of Education at 605-773-3423 or visit <http://doe.sd.gov/octe/careerclusters.aspx>.

