

Our Team



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**CAREER
CONNECT
SOUTHWEST**

<https://www.esd112.org/rural-cte/>



What is Career Technical Education - CTE?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Washington State is a statewide program within the K–12 education system that prepares students for both college and careers through **hands-on, skills-based learning** tied directly to high-demand industries — including healthcare.

CTE is a planned program that provides

- **courses and learning experiences,**
- **academic and life skills,**
- **high skill, high wage employment preparation, and**
- **advanced and continuing education.**

Career Clusters & Pathways

CTE classes fall into one of 16 "career clusters." A career cluster is a group of jobs and industries that are related by skills or products. Within each cluster, there are **6 career pathways** that correspond to a collection of courses and training opportunities to prepare students for a chosen career.

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
- **Architecture & Construction**
- **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications**
- **Business, Management & Administration**
- **Education & Training**
- **Finance**
- **Government & Public Administration**
- **Health Science**
- **Human Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Corrections & Security**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Marketing**
- **Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**
- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics**

Agriculture Education
Business & Marketing
Family & Consumer Sciences
Health Sciences
Skilled & Technical Education
STEM

In the healthcare pathway specifically, CTE offers students opportunities to:

- **Explore careers** in nursing, medical assisting, sports medicine, behavioral health, emergency response, and more.
- Gain **early exposure** to healthcare environments through simulations, labs, and work-based learning experiences like job shadowing or internships.
- Earn **industry-recognized certifications** (such as CPR, First Aid, or CNA in some programs), entry into apprenticeship programs and **dual credit** toward college degrees.
- Develop foundational skills such as medical terminology, patient care techniques, ethical practices, and teamwork in clinical settings.



For healthcare professionals, CTE is an important **talent pipeline**.

These programs:

- Help students **discover healthcare careers** early and prepare them to enter training programs with relevant knowledge and motivation.
- Create **opportunities for partnerships** — hospitals, clinics, and other providers can serve as mentors, guest speakers, hosts for job shadows or interns, or advisors for program development.
- Support workforce development goals by **aligning classroom learning with real-world healthcare needs** in local communities



My Role - CTE & Career Connected Learning Coordinator

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→ 60% of ESD 112 School Districts are rural

- ◆ Unique challenges = unique solutions

→ Limited or no CTE pathways

- ◆ <20% of CTE offered are in rural schools
- ◆ 12% of HS students in rural schools have access to CTE courses

→ Increase CTE offered to >50% rural schools offer CTE

→ Now 21% of rural students have access to CTE courses

→ Looking to expand from region to statewide for rural and remote students



Program Builders Grant



The Sheri and Les
BILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

SW Rural CTE Cooperative



- ★ Rural CTE Expansion - cooperative with rural School Districts
 - Provide technical assistance to cooperative
 - Help facilitate plan/pilot
 - Align with Career Connect SW & Career Connect WA goals
 - Decrease equity gaps
 - Increase postsecondary attainment
 - Increase STEM literacy
 - Developing pathways
 - Computer Science/ Information Technology
 - Careers in Education
 - Healthcare
 - Financial Literacy
- ★ Career Connected Learning Opportunities
 - Provide guidance
 - Help connect with industry partners



Research & Development & Pilot

★ Develop method for Delivery

- Hybrid Model
- CTE Teacher
- School host
- Non- ALE
- Scheduling
- Small High Schools Only

→ ID & support new opportunities

- ◆ Unique model for rural SDs
- ◆ Align with Career Launch

→ Improve existing programs

- ◆ High quality
- ◆ Represent in demand jobs
- ◆ Support local communities
- ◆ Provide livable wage



Stakeholders

- ★ Industry and Association partners
 - Computing For All, PESB, WBA,
 - InReach - WA Association for Community Health
- ★ Workforce SW: data research to support prioritization of sectors; employer partner connections
- ★ GAC - General Advisory Committee - CTE
 - Gorge Tech alliance
 - Local business: Insitu, Skyline Hospital (IT), PeaceHealth
- ★ Higher Education
 - Clark College,
 - Lower Columbia College,
 - Columbia Gorge Community College (OR)



SW WA Rural CTE Cooperative - Impact

Rural

- SY 23-24
 - 8 school districts
 - 3 new courses/75 seats available
 - 31 students participated in CTE
- SY 24-25
 - 6 school district 150 seats available
 - 6 courses - 2 apprenticeship prep pilots
 - 34 students enrolled (17 finished)
- SY 25-26
 - 9 school districts - 8 courses - 200 seats
 - 101 pre-enrolled students
 - Limiting to 4 courses due to funding restraints
 - MA Apprenticeship Preparatory
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Microsoft Office User Specialist
 - Financial Math

Regional

- Regional GACs & CLNAs
- Improved relationship with regional CTE directors & colleges
- Increased awareness and involvement of CCSW and ESD112 supports

SW WA Rural CTE Cooperative - Challenges

- Broadband access for work outside of class time
- Dual credit
 - Desire to articulation with closest CTC, but that's often across state lines
 - Challenges in supporting students to claim the credits they earn
- Finding qualified teachers
- Scheduling
- Recruitment



Thank you for your time!

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