

How can state  
policymakers

**support** more

**relevant** &  
**effective**

career & technical  
education

programs for high  
school students?

EPLC Group Project



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# The Promise of Pennsylvania Career & Technical Education

1. 86 CTC's in Pennsylvania (by campus)
2. Over 65,000 students (13-14 SY)
3. Programs include Arts, Health Sciences, Manufacturing, Construction, Transportation, etc.
4. Governed by Joint Operating Committees consisting of member school district representatives.
5. Comprehensive CTC's (academic and technical instruction) and Occupational CTC's (technical instruction)



## CTE: A Pennsylvania Priority

The Governor's proposed 16-17 budget would raise the amount for CTCs to a little more than \$85 million, which is a 23 million increase from the 15-16 budget. He also proposed a \$2 million increase in the equipment grant for the 16-17 year (to \$5 million total).

EPLC Report-High School Career and Technical Education: Serving Pennsylvania's Student and Workforce Needs

HR 102 authorized the establishment of the House Education subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness. Their report is due November 30, 2016.

PA Chamber Foundation hosting Workforce Summit in May featuring Keynote Mike Rowe. PA Chamber noting "a general lack of knowledge about family-sustaining career opportunities that don't require a college degree."





CTE = Opportunities  
for Employment, Post-  
secondary Education  
and Life

*I believe the vocational program is very important. If a student completes a vocational program it gives them a skill they can use to work a job while they are in college. If they do not want to go to college they will have entry level skills that could help in getting a job. Any shop class taught at a high school is a skill that any person can use. Any home owner can use electrical or building and trades training just maintaining their house. Any automotive course is beneficial in maintaining your vehicle.*

-Richard Johns. Retired Marine. Welding Shop Educator.  
Greater Johnstown School District.





CTE builds academic and employability skills as well as self-confidence.

*I am not going to further pursue an occupation nor further training within this field of carpentry because of my goals to become a Secondary Education teacher. However, this does not mean the time I have spent within this program has not had any value these past four years. Working with my hands, becoming collectively dependent on others, and learning discipline through many times trial and error has morally and academically helped me to succeed in all of my shop and academic classes. The rigor and high standards have taught me to be both accountable and prideful of everything I have and will do.*

-Shane Adams. Senior Building Trades and Maintenance student at Greater Johnstown High School.





## Jobs in Career & Technical Education Pay a Living Wage

Occupation	Openings Per Year	Entry Level Wage	Average Wage
Nurses	4,800	\$49,650	\$66,010
Machinists	707	\$28,590	\$40,130
Construction Laborers	1,547	\$22,420	\$35,130
Carpenters	1,498	\$28,870	\$44,370
Automotive Mechanics	1,178	\$23,210	\$37,260
Dental Assistants	357	\$24,350	\$33,420
Dental Hygienists	350	\$46,560	\$60,940





## CTE: What are the issues?

According to ACTE, the courses of study offered by technical schools encompass 94% of the interest areas of high school students.

In Pennsylvania, only approximately 12% of the student population were enrolled in a CTC program in the 13-14 SY.





How can policy address a cultural and marketing issue?

Short Term Goal:

Propose policy amendments that streamline and reinforce the school's obligation to provide CTC information to their students to raise awareness.



## Policy Recommendation I

### Title 22 Section 4.13 of the PA State Regulations (addition) Comprehensive Plans

(f) Upon expiration of its current strategic planning phase, each school district shall submit a written plan for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, sequential program for kindergarten through 12th grade students designed to promote awareness of and access to career and technical education opportunities and their relevance to college readiness and career development. The plan shall incorporate the guidance services procedures as required under §339.32 (relating to Vocational Education Standards – Guidance Services). Upon request, the plan shall be submitted to the Secretary. The district shall coordinate and collaborate with CTE educators and administrators in participating CTE programs in the development of the district's comprehensive plan.





## Policy Recommendation II

### Section 339.32

(5) **Adequate** Standard and approved career and technical education orientation procedures for ~~vocationally-oriented pupils~~ all students shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Current labor market information.
- Career exploration/interest inventories to help students make informed decisions.
- Orientation workshops that help people know what the academic path looks like and entails and CTE—not either, or Field trips to the participating CTC, classes and employers.
- Information on current articulation agreements between the CTC and colleges and universities that provide opportunities for college credit or dual enrollment.





## Long Term Recommendations

1. Link a career and technical center performance indicator to a school district's school performance profile.
2. Increase incentives for businesses to partner with their local CTC.
3. Reevaluate teacher accreditation process.





Questions?