



# Kentucky's Proposed Accountability System Career and Technical Education (CTE) at a Glance

Kentucky's proposed accountability system strongly reflects the Kentucky Board of Education's (KBE's) vision that each and every student is empowered and equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to pursue a successful future. Kentucky's accountability system provides students with multiple, meaningful opportunities to engage in pathways that build awareness of career opportunities, provide real-world instruction and lead to credentials with labor market value.

The accountability model spotlights CTE as a viable means to a high school diploma and preparation for postsecondary training and career by including opportunities for students to obtain a strong academic foundation along with career and technical content.

The proposed accountability system supports the Commonwealth's overall strategy to grow the state's economy and improve workforce development, so that Kentucky is able to attract new employers and successfully fill jobs statewide with well-educated and highly skilled Kentuckians.

For all students, the system encourages career exploration along with access to rich career and technical learning experiences as early as middle school, and fosters a rich curriculum in career and technical education at the high school level. The system also emphasizes the importance of career counseling. Additionally, the system promotes:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) career preparation by including science in addition to mathematics in achievement measures;
- student choice and personalization of education by offering multiple ways to demonstrate Transition Readiness at the high school level through CTE coursework, work experiences and the attainment of certifications;
- the attainment of industry certifications, especially in state and regional high-demand sectors;
- dual credit in career and technical education;
- the Tech-Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) program and other apprenticeship opportunities;
- the attainment of essential skills.

At the high school level, career readiness is one of two readiness indicators (along with academic) and offers multiple ways the student may choose to demonstrate career and technical readiness.

## Career and Technical Education Measures in the Accountability Model

Opportunity and Access	Transition Readiness
<p>This indicator emphasizes access to those research-based measures that help ensure student success.</p> <p>CTE <i>rich curriculum</i> is demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of the student population with access to career exploration and standards-based courses in career and technical education (middle school)</li> <li>• The percentage of the student population that has completed a career pathway (4 credits) in a CTE program of study (high school)</li> <li>• The percentage of graduates that demonstrate essential skills by earning a bronze rating or higher on a Kentucky work ethic certification               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 75% or more of the senior cohort population (3 pts)</li> <li>○ 50% to 74% of the senior cohort population (2 pts)</li> <li>○ 25% to 49% of the senior cohort population (1 pt)</li> <li>○ 24% or less of the senior cohort population (0 pt)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>In addition to earning a regular high school diploma or alternative diploma, a high school student may demonstrate academic or career readiness.</p> <p>Career Readiness Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarks on Industry Certifications (<i>Approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board on an annual basis</i>);</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoring at or above the benchmark on the CTE End-of-Program Assessment for articulated credit;</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grade of B or higher in each course on 6 or more hours of KDE-approved CTE dual credit;</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing a Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)/Labor Cabinet-approved apprenticeship;</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing a KDE-approved alternate process to verify exceptional work experience.</li> </ul>

For students who are seeking career readiness, the system promotes a seamless program of study at the high school and postsecondary levels that lead to certifications and credentials.

It should be noted that the development of the new accountability system has been a collaborative effort with CTE teachers, workforce and business representatives.

In addition to the proposed accountability system, CTE is integrated throughout Kentucky's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan with:

- the alignment of Kentucky's CTE standards with Transition Readiness and higher education expectations (standards);
- the use of labor market information, the improvement of pathways and support transitions to postsecondary education and the workforce, and the incentive to school districts (New Skills for Youth Initiative) to create regional career academies that are aligned to high demand careers (supporting effective instruction);
- the revamping of the New Teacher Institute that will provide high quality, practical instruction to teachers entering the classroom from industry (supporting effective instruction);
- the expansion of accelerated learning programs through dual credit opportunities (academic enrichment).