



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 14, 2011

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New York State Career and Technical Education: Leaders in Educational Reform

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is an important part of educational reform in New York State. The Board of Regents is considering changes to high school graduation requirements to enable all students to maximize their educational potential. Career and Technical Education is based on the understanding that the ability to reason, to think critically and creatively, and to reflect on one's actions will empower students to act responsibly towards themselves, their families, their peers and society. Students who take Career and Technical Education courses develop problem-solving, project completion, research, math, work-related, communication, time management and critical thinking skills while in high school. Career and Technical Education is contributing to the Regents' goals for educational reform; preparing students to be college- and career-ready by using strategies and real world applications to bridge the gap between academic, employability and technical skills.

Career and Technical Education is a kindergarten through adult area of study that includes rigorous academic content closely aligned with career and technical subjects. The Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Learning Standards serve as the framework. Students' first formal introduction to CTE is through the middle-level courses Home and Career Skills and Introduction to

Technology. In grades nine through twelve, CTE includes specific subject areas such as agricultural education, business and marketing education, family and consumer sciences education, health occupations education, technology education, and trade, technical and industrial education (culinary arts, automotive, cosmetology, carpentry, and building trades). Career & Technical courses can help students fulfill the graduation requirement in science, fine arts and foreign language. Many high school Career & Technical programs across New York State offer college credit through articulation agreements. Students may earn advanced standing, transcribed credit and/or dual college credit.

Many students would benefit if more high school CTE courses were options for completing math and science requirements. Students who are disengaged learners and are in danger of not graduating from high school and students who have disabilities will be better able to meet the standards for a Regents diploma because CTE courses allow them to apply the math and science skills and develop a better understanding of the content.

Career & Technical Educators are able to differentiate instructions to accommodate students with special needs. This can be accomplished through a variety of alternative instructional and assessment strategies. Career & Technical teachers can serve as valuable resource persons, team teachers or consultants for Special Education teachers by providing strategies for teaching life skills.

The New York State Association for Career & Technical Education represents over two thousand Career & Technical teachers throughout New York State. The Association for Career and Technical Education represents approximately 27,000 teachers, administrators, educators and counselors involved in career and technical education across the United States and abroad.

For more information and to view the New York State Career and Technical Education Curriculum for grades 5-12, please visit www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/ . If you would like more information on the Association for Career and Technical Education, please visit www.acteonline.org.

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