



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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LET’S CELEBRATE ALABAMA

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH 2023

“Honoring the Remarkable Impact Local CTE Programs are making in Preparing the Future Generation of College and Career Ready Student Leaders”

Montgomery, Ala. – This week officially kicks-off our state’s exciting celebration of Alabama Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, on *February 1-28, 2023*.

Our state’s local educators continue to work hard to inspire *every young person* through CTE classes, student organizations, and activities to do their best in school now, to ensure a lifetime of success in the future.



To celebrate Alabama CTE Month 2023, many local schools and communities are hosting in-school events, online career fairs, virtual college tours, and job-etiquette workshops to highlight the great impact that CTE is having on Alabama student success.

**Why are students joining Career Technical Student*

Organizations (CTSOs) and local CTE classes? Watch this video - Hear these honest answers, directly from Alabama students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38GjqnOSzBA>

State, Local, and National Workforce Trends

“We are truly excited to celebrate Alabama Career and Technical Education Month,” said Assistant State Superintendent, Dr. Jimmy Hull. “Our programs are focused on preparing students for a lifetime of success. Whether they are focused on attending college right after high school graduation, entering the workforce, military service, or a combination of these wonderful opportunities, Alabama Career and Technical Education is committed to assisting every student in achieving their goals.”

There are so many excellent learning opportunities for students in today’s CTE! Statewide, over 180,000 students in grades 9-12 are now enrolled in Alabama CTE programs. Alabama CTE is focused on preparing K-12 students for in-demand career opportunities in America’s leading career areas.

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2023 Alabama Career and Technical Education Month – February 1-28th

The National Career Clusters are 16 basic categories, in which all current jobs in the United States can ultimately be placed into and organized.

*See a list of America's Highest Paying Occupations at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/highest-paying.htm>



Today's career clusters represent 79 different career pathways. These categories help students and adult learners navigate their ways to greater success in the professions they are interested in.

Many Alabama middle schools are now also utilizing the career cluster concept too. Their goal is to spark more career interest and STEM-related learning in students – at a much younger age. Examples of some of the career fields that Alabama CTE students may prepare for include:

- Engineering
- Journalism (radio, television, print)
- Aviation and Aerospace careers
- K-12 Education
- Medical Professions (physician, nursing, dentistry)
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity
- Law Enforcement, First Responder Careers, and Military Leadership
- Hundreds of other career learning opportunities

“With personal dedication and hard work, we believe every Alabama student can increase their potential to earn high-paying salaries in the future,” continues Hull. “Career and Technical Education truly is a valuable resource in developing K-12 students' essential workplace skills and academic knowledge.”

The special partnership between our state's education and workforce development communities continues to have a positive impact. Alabama's high school CTE programs are now considered to be among the top in the nation.

We proudly celebrate Alabama Career and Technical Education Month.

America's high school and college students have even more promising career prospects now available. According to top experts, over the next decade, America's leading occupations that require college-level or advanced professional credentials, will have record-breaking job openings.

For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicates employment in media and communication occupations is now projected to grow nearly 14 percent by 2030. This fast job growth will be a leading example, which is projected to result in nearly 151,500 new jobs – <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/home.htm>

CTE initiatives help reduce student dropout rates and increase on-time graduation.

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Students who take advanced CTE courses in high school or college are often projected to earn 3.2 percent more in salary over their lifetime, in comparison to peers who do not take these classes. CTE Concentrators take at least two CTE classes in a specific program-of-study.

Alabama CTE also provides opportunities for young people to participate in seven national student organizations:

- **FBLA** helps students develop their potential for top careers through learning important business skills and education concepts - <https://www.alabamafbla-pbl.org/>
- **JROTC** is producing selfless leaders committed to the greater good. Through JROTC, students learn leadership and personal responsibility - <https://alabamajrotc.org/>
- **FFA** is a dynamic youth organization that makes positive differences in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership and personal growth through agricultural education - <https://alabamaffa.org/>
- Members of **SkillsUSA** proudly proclaim, “We are America’s Future Workforce.” SkillsUSA works to ensure students are prepared for high-paying, real-world career opportunities – <https://alskillsusa.org/>
- **Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** is an organization for students interested in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education and careers. FCCLA has family as its central focus. It offers students fantastic opportunities to develop top communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills – <https://alabamafccla.org/>
- **DECA** prepares students for entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, hospitality, and management careers. Nearly eighty-six percent of DECA students go on to pursue a college education – <https://www.alabamadeca.com/>
- The **Technology Student Association (TSA)** provides leadership and opportunities in technology and engineering areas. This organization prepares students in robotics, science, technology, and STEM-related career areas <https://alabamatsa.rocks/>
- **HOSA** students are Future Health Professionals! They prepare for careers in Physiology, Growth and Development, Medical Language and Safety, Body Mechanics, Infection-Disease Control, and Forensics. HOSA students develop medical leadership - <https://alabamahosa.org/>
- **Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG)** pairs students with committed JAG Specialists, who provide instruction to help each student through their personal journey to earn a high school diploma, secure a quality career, and pursue a college education. Alabama JAG has nearly a 99 percent graduation rate - <https://www.alabamajag.org/>

2023 Alabama Career and Technical Education Month – February 1-28th

To learn more about this year's Alabama CTE Month celebration and activities taking place in your local community, contact your local Board of Education, call the ALSDE Career Tech/Workforce Development Section at 334-694-4876, or visit www.alabamaachieves.org

**Teachers and Local Education Administrators, the 2023 CTE Month Communication Plan* is available for review at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/ecd88bf2801/0da3b69c-1879-44a2-ad99-c5003c7eb480.pdf>

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