



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**2021 ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

*“Alabama Career Tech Preparing College & Career Ready Students – Tomorrow’s Leaders”*

Jackie Zeigler  
District I  
Vice President

**Montgomery, Ala.** – This week officially kicked-off this year’s exciting and month-long celebration of *Alabama Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month*, on **February 1-28**.



Tracie West  
District II

To celebrate, local schools and communities statewide are hosting special events including *virtual career fairs, virtual college and business tours, job shadowing and professional-etiquette workshops* to highlight the great impact that Alabama CTE is having on student success.

Stephanie Bell  
District III

More than 173,000 students statewide in grades 9-12 are enrolled in Alabama CTE classes and programs! “Our CTE program in Alabama is strong and continues to evolve,” said State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey. “Within the past five years, we have seen a 120 percent growth in workplace credentials earned, with 81.9 percent of students in Alabama currently enrolled in at least one CTE class.”

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
President Pro Tem

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

***Top Career Learning Opportunities Available for High School Students in Today’s CTE***

*Examples of some of the high paying and in-demand careers that Alabama CTE students are preparing for include:*

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

- Civil Engineering
- Journalism (radio, television, print)
- Aquaculture and Sports Turf Management
- Human Resources Manager
- K-12 Education/Teacher
- Culinary Arts – Executive Chefs
- Social Work Professional
- Medical Professions (physician, nursing, dentistry)
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity
- Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and First Responders
- Military Service and Leadership

Belinda McRae  
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII

*There are hundreds* of other career fields and CTE learning opportunities available statewide for students. Alabama’s high school and middle school CTE programs are considered by many to be some of the best in the U.S.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

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## *Alabama Career and Technical Education Month 2021*



Among high school graduates entering the workforce, statistics show those with a technical-based background – like the hands-on learning experiences in career tech – often earn more throughout their lifetimes.

America’s CTE initiatives help to reduce student dropout rates and increase on-time graduation. To put this in prospective, workforce employees between the ages of 25 to 54-years-old were more than 60 percent of the American labor force in 2020. Today’s high school students taking advanced CTE courses in high school or college (CTE concentrators) are projected to earn 3.2 percent more in salary than their peers, who have not taken these types of career development classes.

*Concentrators* are students who take at least two CTE classes in a specific program-of-study.

### ***A Focus on Student Achievement and Education Results***

#### *More Effective Local Programs Statewide Through EQIP*

One of the key reasons for Alabama’s CTE success is the state’s **Evaluation of Quality Instruction of Programs** (EQIP) initiative. EQIP is an annual evaluation used to assist and support local CTE program success. It improves performance and local school achievement by setting measurable standards, by which all local CTE programs can be evaluated. The EQIP review process is used to ensure all Alabama CTE programs comply with and maintain the highest standards of the international business and industry community.

#### *Use of the National Career Clusters*

Alabama CTE is focused on preparing K-12 students for high-wage opportunities in America’s leading career areas. The *National Career Clusters* are 16 basic categories, where all current careers in the United States can be organized and ultimately placed into.

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## Alabama Career and Technical Education Month 2021

Today's career clusters represent *79 different career pathways*. These categorize help students and adult learners navigate their way to greater success in the professions they have interest in:

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

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 much younger ages.

### **Leadership Development & Career Technical Student Organizations - CTSOs**



Alabama CTE provides students an opportunity to participate in nine different student organizations and special initiatives.

*\*Why are Alabama students joining Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and local CTE classes? Watch this wonderful online video and hear these honest answers, directly from Alabama students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2K9ofyQtRk>*

- **Alabama FBLA-PBL** inspires students to become community-minded business leaders. Students in FBLA-PBL develop essential work skills by holding top organizational positions at the local, state, and national level; by networking with accomplished business professionals nationwide; and by participating in business-focused workshops, seminars, and academic competitions. Many FBLA-PBL student members go-on to become top IT innovators, marketing professionals, CEOs, and business owners. <https://www.alabamafbla-pbl.org/>
- **Alabama JROTC** is a great starting point for Alabama's future heroes! This program is dedicated to producing the next generation of leaders committed to service. Operating through a cooperative network of programs in local Alabama schools, JROTC works to instill in cadets the values of citizenship, service to the United States of America, personal responsibility, and confidence through accomplishment. JROTC provides skills training and character strengthening to motivate young people to be better students and citizens. <https://alabamajrotc.org/>
- **Alabama FFA** is a dynamic youth organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career achievement through agricultural education. Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and top professionals in many careers. <https://alabamaffa.org/>

## *Alabama Career and Technical Education Month 2021*

- **Alabama SkillsUSA** proudly proclaims, “We are America’s Future Workforce.” The goal of this organization is to build Alabama’s next generation of world-class leaders. Young professionals entering the workforce sometimes lack the foundational skills needed for success. SkillsUSA works to ensure every student is prepared for the great opportunities in business, manufacturing, and industry. <https://alskillsusa.org/>

See this fun and quick video produced about Alabama SkillsUSA at: <https://youtu.be/ZCh6ldg9kMA>

- **Alabama Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** is an organization for students interested in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) careers. Everyone is part of a family, and FCCLA is the only national Career Technical Student Organization with family as its central focus. Since 1945, FCCLA members have been making a positive difference and addressing many important societal issues through FACS education – nutrition, fitness, lowering teen violence, and promoting career exploration for students. Involvement in FCCLA offers high school students great opportunities to develop professional communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills. <https://alabamafccla.org/>
- **Alabama DECA** prepares students for leadership opportunities as entrepreneurs, in marketing, finance, hospitality and management careers. For more than 60 years, DECA has impacted the lives of millions of students and business professionals. DECA student members learn valuable workplace skills and are proven leaders within their communities. The majority—generally high school juniors and seniors—hold jobs, and a surprising percentage of these students own their own businesses too. Nearly eighty-six percent of DECA members pursue a college education. <https://www.alabamadeca.com/>
- **Alabama’s Technology Student Association (TSA)** provides students leadership development for the world of technology. TSA is a national organization of top middle and high school students interested in robotics, science, and technology areas. It focuses on developing each students’ skills in STEM-related careers. <https://alabamatsa.rocks/>
- **Alabama HOSA** students are *Future Health Professionals!* HOSA is a national organization whose mission is to promote the great career opportunities in health care. Students participating in Alabama HOSA have an opportunity to prepare for careers in Physiology, Growth and Development, Medical Language and Safety, Body Mechanics, Infection and Disease Control, and Forensics. HOSA's goal is to encourage and develop the career skills of all health science students. <https://alabamahosa.org/>
- **Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG)** provides support to students who may have difficult barriers. Alabama JAG pairs students with a JAG Specialist who provides instruction to help each student earn their high school diploma, secure a quality job, and pursue a great college education if they choose. Through early intervention including classroom instruction, counseling, employability development, and job placement services, *Alabama JAG has seen a 99 percent graduation rate and 95 percent job placement rate* for its students! <https://www.alabamajag.org/>

*Alabama Career and Technical Education Month 2021*

**To learn more about Alabama CTE Month 2021, or any of the celebration activities taking place in your community, contact your local Board of Education; visit [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu); or contact the ALSDE Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Section at 334-694-4876.**

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