



2015-16 CTE Plan Executive Summary

1. The skills that are necessary to attain a high wage & high demand career in the 21st Century are in large measure different from the skills that afforded past generations the ability to attain high wage employment. As a result, the major priority for Rockingham County School's CTE program is to close this "skills gap." Rockingham County Schools CTE program intends to lead the effort to close the skills gap by:

- a) Providing students with opportunities to attain an increasing variety of industry recognized credentials while in high school.
- b) Engaging core curriculum teachers via CTE led workshops that demonstrate how many of the tools and content contained within CTE classes can help support the content that core curriculum teachers are attempting to teach and make relevant to their students.
- c) Creating a pipeline of students that will be able to take advantage of the high wage and high demand career opportunities particularly in STEM related fields. It will be a priority for Career Development Coordinators, Instructional Management Coordinator and CTE director to work with both Rockingham County Schools and Rockingham Community College counselors to develop 4-6 year plans that direct students toward those classes that are consistent with their interests and post-secondary aspirations. Such pathways will emphasize dual credit opportunities through College and Career Promise opportunities as well as course articulation agreements with Rockingham Community College.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7neQALHVOkw>

2. The Career and Technical Education program will lead innovation within the district.



- a) CTE will lead the district in the development of creative/innovative thinking emphasizing the design process and by expanding Intro to Design course offerings (Local Course Option).
- b) CTE will lead the district in the use of tools that help students transition their ideas from their heads and into the real world. Such tools would include 3-D printers, 3-D scanners and various computer aided design applications. Resulting products will be displayed at school and highlighted on the district web-site.



3. CTE will promote the "dignity of all occupations" by matching student interest with a relevant career pathway.

- a) CTE staff will present their respective programs to all rising 9th grade students during the spring of their 8th grade year.
- b) Counselors will consider ACT Explorer data and/or CTE generated brochures to help students choose a pathway that is in line with their interests and career aspirations.



4. The CTE program will lead in the area of STEM initiatives. CTE programs are particularly suited to situate the engineering of solutions as a manifestation of Science and Math Content. CTE can lead the district as Advanced Ed suggests to "provide engagement techniques to position STEM as an integrated component of learning rather than a discipline-by-discipline checklist."

- a) CTE programs will emphasize design thinking, project based learning and the integration of modeling software and equipment to demonstrate to core content teachers how CTE content and tools can help students see the relevance of math and science content.



The Public Safety Academy



The Health Science Academy



The STEM Academy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7ot84KHK>



<http://www.rock.k12.nc.us/Page/5173>