



Resolution of Support for California Career Technical Education

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The broad mission of public education is to enable all students to reach their full potential for a successful life in our society. An important part of that mission is to prepare students for careers and future success in the California economy.

Therefore, we believe that every student should have access to career and technical education (CTE). CTE allows students to explore potential careers and reinforces the theories and concepts of core academics through hands-on application.

California has adopted standards to ensure that CTE courses will prepare students for good paying jobs that will be in high demand in the 21st century.

Over the last two decades, CTE has suffered an unacceptable decline. In 2008, student enrollment in CTE in California public schools is the lowest in our state's history. There are many reasons for the decline, including state policies regarding high school graduation requirements, higher education admissions criteria that do not include CTE coursework, and the lack of available credentialed CTE teachers. As a result, fewer students are taking CTE courses, CTE classes are being shut down, and new CTE teachers are not being trained in sufficient numbers. We are going in the wrong direction.

Limited access to CTE means students are not being prepared to make informed career and higher education choices and are less likely to find school meaningful and relevant. This increases the odds that students will fail to finish high school, fail to complete technical community college or apprenticeship programs, or fail to achieve college degrees. At the same time, many businesses are unable to find skilled workers for high-wage technical jobs, threatening our economic competitiveness.

Therefore, we support state and local education policy reforms to make CTE an integral part of every student's education.