



## What is Career & Technical Education?

Today's cutting edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares students for a wide range of high skill, high wage, high demand careers in specialized fields such as healthcare, finance, information technology and the trades. Through CTE courses students gain pathway specific **TECHNICAL**, **ACADEMIC** and cutting-edge **EMPLOYABILITY** skills for success in any workplace, in further education and in career awareness and planning.

Volusia County Schools offers career and technical education programs and career academies at the high school level.

- CTE programs consist of three or more job preparatory courses that culminate in an opportunity to earn industry certifications or digital tools certificates in a career area of interest.
- Career academies are small learning communities that combine rigorous **TECHNICAL** CTE coursework and college-prep **ACADEMIC** coursework with a career focus.

### Real-World Experiences

Developing a productive and adaptable workforce that is competitive in the global economy is key to American excellence and prosperity. An important way CTE programs achieve this goal is by ensuring that education and business work together to equip students with the skills vital to success in the workplace.

Through business partnerships, students participate in career cluster targeted work based learning experiences that enable them to apply the knowledge gained in CTE programs through the following opportunities:

- Internships
- Job Shadowing
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- PreApprenticeships
- Mentoring
- Field Studies
- School Based Enterprises

Students participating in **Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)** interact with business professionals to practice critical **EMPLOYABILITY** skills through local, state and national competitions and events.

High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates.

**93%** The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in a CTE program.

**91%** High school graduates who earned 2-3 CTE credits enrolled in college.

### Digital Tools & Industry Certifications

#### Digital Tools Certificates (Grades 6-8)

Digital Tools exams are offered to our middle school students to support the development of digital skills in areas such as word processing, coding, presentations and digital citizenship.

#### Industry Certifications (Grades 9-12)

Students who earn an industry certification have demonstrated evidence of mastery in a **TECHNICAL** skill. Research indicates that students who attain industry certifications will earn more over the course of their career than those that are lacking these recognized industry certifications. Industry certifications count toward acceleration as a component of school grade.

#### Articulated College Credit

The State Board of Education has approved over 140 certifications that will earn students college credit.

#### Online Credit

Students who earn a nationally recognized industry certification in the Information Technology cluster satisfy the online course graduation requirement.

*For a list of CTE programs and Career Academies, please visit <https://www.vcsedu.org/cte> or visit your school's website.*