Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
May 15, 2025	Action Item 4

Title

FY 2026 Local Plan for Improving Career and Technical Education

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Local Plan for Improvement of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education/One-Year Funding Application for FY2026

Summary Explanation and Background

The Georgia Department of Education requires, as part of each School District's annual on-line Consolidated Application process, local School Board approval of its plan for the Improvement of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education. The Executive Summary of the School District's Local Plan is attached.

Financial Impact

Funded through Local, State and Federal Funds

Exhibits: (List)

See Attached Executive Summary

Source of Additional Information

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S (CCSD)
FY 2026 LOCAL PLAN FOR IMPROVING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Guided by CCSD's vision for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE), the commitment to develop, implement and manage instructional opportunities for CCSD students remains vibrant and strong. The Local Plan and One-Year Funding Application for the Improvement of CTAE for FY2026 continues to reflect the Key Priorities begun during the 2024-2025 school year to Elevate the Excellence in academics and achievement for all students and embrace a pervasive high-quality school environment defined by high standards, effective supports, and consistent practices. The School Board's Core Beliefs, including (1) all students are highly engaged in their education and capable of reaching their full learning potential and (3) families and our community are involved partners in student success and can expect all students to receive the best education possible, has resulted in CCSD CTAE programs that continue to prepare students for an ever-evolving, technologically diverse and technologically rich society. Local plans display important elements of State and District-wide initiatives, including pathway alignment with the Statewide High Demand Pathway List, the implementation of YouScience in all middle and high schools, an expansion of Career Pathway offerings, the maintenance of a College and Career Academy (C3) and new dual enrollment opportunities with our local technical college, Chattahoochee Technical College.

CCSD's Local Plan outlines year-long student achievement and program improvement strategies for all CTAE Pathways offered at the middle and high school levels with a focus on specific Overarching Needs identified in the bi-annual Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). Federal legislation regulating the Perkins Career and Technical Education Program provides a list of options from which local school districts may choose. Teachers, administrators, and community members assist in the preparation of goals, objectives, timelines, and funding allocations. Plans reflect the use of Local, State and Federal funding sources to grow, support and maintain CTAE programs. CCSD's Local Plan includes the following strategies:

- Continually address course standards and teacher expectations in classrooms,
- Align course curriculum with academic and technical standards,
- Coordinate with special populations' personnel to better assess abilities, interests, aptitudes and unique learning needs and styles,
- Involve other instructors in a team/problem-based learning approach to instruction,

- Work with the post-secondary technical colleges to maximize dual enrollment opportunities for students,
- Evaluate and discuss the school's course schedule with administrators to ensure conflicts are minimized or eliminated,
- Develop and implement marketing plans for all programs and include students in the planning,
- Implement Teacher-As-Advisor programs to provide students with consistent trusted adult advisors,
- Expand the availability of Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers,
- Ensure WBL students are exposed to all aspects of an industry or business,
- Ensure all posters, brochures, fliers, and other promotional materials include non-traditional occupations which feature photos and testimonials of women and minorities working in these occupations, and
- Provide students with the course-specific grading rubrics, grading procedures, and/or other grading criteria so course and project standards are known at the beginning of each course.

CCSD CTAE utilizes the goals and objectives outlined in the CLNA as the foundation for the CTAE programs. Additionally, the Federal Perkins legislation includes benchmarks about meeting academic and technical skill attainment, graduation rate and nontraditional participation. CCSD meets all the benchmarks established except one, pathway completion. To continue meeting and exceeding all benchmarks, the CCSD Local Plan includes the following strategies relative to the CTAE program:

- Establish and expect students and staff to meet high expectations,
- Involve each student and his/her parents/guardians in an individualized advisement visit to complete an accelerated and challenging program of study with a career/technical and/or academic focus,
- Engage students completing a challenging program of study with an upgraded academic core and a career major,
- Provide a structured system of extra help to enable students to successfully complete an accelerated program of study,

- Use student assessment and program evaluation information to check and improve curriculum, instruction, school climate, organization, and management, and
- Increase access to career/technical studies with major emphasis on blending college level math, science, language arts and problem-solving skills in the context of business and technical studies.

The CCSD FY2026 budget for CTAE programs includes State QBE and Local funds of more than $9 Million and Federal Perkins Grants of $554,703.00. Funds are utilized for teacher salaries, equipment, supplies and professional development. These funds support the following Georgia Career Clusters:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, AV/Technology and Communications
- Education and Training
- Energy
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

CCSD's initial plans were submitted to the Georgia Department of Education Division of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Programs as required by May 2, 2025. Plans become effective upon formal adoption by the local School Board with signature by the Superintendent of Schools and upon execution by the Georgia State Superintendent of Schools or authorized designee pursuant to authorization by the Georgia State Board of Education.