



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Townsend Building
401 Federal Street Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901-3639
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Cindy Marten
Secretary of Education
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Dear CTE Leaders,

Please carefully review the information below as it directly impacts program of study development, submission, and approval. Our team is working to incorporate this language into CTE policy and procedure documents.

Anticipated Pathway (Program of Study) Application Timeline (subject to change based upon Infinite Campus implementation)

- Application Deadline: November 15 of the year prior to implementation
- Initial Notification: By December 20
- Revision Deadline: January 15 (if revisions are required)
- Final Approval: By February 1

Updated Definitions

The definitions below were collaboratively updated by DDOE, DDOL, the Delaware Workforce Development Board, and the Delaware Prosperity Partnership to ensure compliance, consistency, and alignment across federal and state statutes and reporting requirements. The following updated definitions are now in effect:

- High Skill: Generally requires a Journeyperson's credential, bachelor's degree, or more.
- Middle Skill: Requires more than a high school diploma or GED, but less than a bachelor's degree. Includes certificates, certifications, licenses, associate's degrees, and some college coursework or formal workforce training.
- Low Skill: Requires a high school diploma, GED, or less.

Middle and High Wage Occupations

- Determined through a single, or group of Standardized Occupation Classification (SOC) codes, the occupation has a projected job growth rate greater than or equal to 0.7% annually over the next ten years and/or



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evidence of at least 25 job openings regionally aligned to the occupation or family of occupations.

- This roughly is equivalent to the middle of the “FAIR” classification used in the most recent Occupation & Industry Projections publication.
- For reporting purposes, data will be at the Cluster level. For CTE program approval, data will be analyzed at the sub-cluster level and utilize the SOC framework for the Modernized Career Clusters Framework.

In-Demand Occupations

- Determined through a single or group of SOC codes.
- Defined as occupations with a projected job growth rate $\geq 0.7\%$ annually over the next ten years and/or at least 25 regional job openings aligned to the occupation/family of occupations.
- For reporting purposes, data will be analyzed at the Cluster level; for CTE program approval, analysis will occur at the Sub-cluster level and utilize the SOC framework for the Modernized Career Clusters Framework.

Geographic Region

- Defined as a 45-minute commute time from a relevant street address (e.g., place of business, school district boundary, or school building).
- This definition will be used consistently by the CTE Workgroup, Delaware Workforce Development Board, and Delaware Prosperity Partnership.

Next Steps

Moving forward, all Programs of Study must be developed around no more than five (5) complementary SOC codes that meet the thresholds of middle and high skill, wage, and in-demand criteria to be approved. Exceptions may be considered for extenuating circumstances, such as enabling sectors or emerging industries.

Per HB 332, all Teacher Academy pathways must reapply in this application window, regardless of whether they are operating under the state model or a locally developed model. Local models must also demonstrate at minimum the standards, knowledge and skills statements as the state model, and must include work-based learning opportunities, alignment to GYO/Apprenticeship, and early post-secondary credit and/or advanced standing options.



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For technical assistance, please contact the appropriate Education Associate listed below. For universal questions about the application process, please contact Dr. Michael Hill-Shaner (michael.hill-shaner@doe.k12.de.us).

Modernized Career Cluster	Sub-Clusters	Education Associate
Caring for Communities	Education	Hill-Shaner
Caring for Communities	Healthcare & Human Services	Townsend
Caring for Communities	Public Service & Safety	Townsend
Building & Moving	Advanced Manufacturing	Fitzgerald
Building & Moving	Construction	Fitzgerald
Building & Moving	Supply Chain & Transportation	Fitzgerald
Connecting & Supporting Success	Digital Technology	Fitzgerald
Connecting & Supporting Success	Management & Entrepreneurship	Allen
Connecting & Supporting Success	Marketing & Sales	Allen
Creating & Experiencing	Hospitality, Events, & Tourism	Hill-Shaner
Creating & Experiencing	Arts, Entertainment & Design	Fitzgerald & Hill-Shaner
Cultivating Resources	Agriculture	Fitzgerald (New Ed Associate)
Cultivating Resources	Energy & Natural Resources	Fitzgerald (New Ed Associate)
Investing in the Future	Financial Services	Allen
Middle Grades		Cuff

Jon Wickert, Ed.D.

Director, Career and Technical Education and STEM Initiatives Workgroup
Delaware Department of Education
Workforce Support Team