

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the front one clearly labeled 'SCHOOL BUS' and the number '32'. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several white student desks and black chairs are arranged in the room.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Advisory Committee

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)
Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE)

November 13, 2025



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

KENTUCKY CTE
EMPOWERED
Today's Career and Technical Education

Welcome

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2025, Meeting

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

OCTE Staffing Updates

Beth Engle, Division Director



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

NEW Staff

Position Changes

OCTE Communications – Nathan Lyttle

New Staff

Computer Sciences / Media Arts Program Consultant – Tabitha Berger
Budget Specialist – Sheila Dishman

Current Openings

Skills USA State Advisor

Division of Student Transition and Career Readiness Updates

Tom Thompson, Director

Programs and Pathways

- Artificial Intelligence
 - ✓ Local Pathway in Computer Science – Warren County
 - ✓ AI in Academic and Employability Standards – AI Ethics, General Use, AI in the workplace, etc.
 - ✓ Pathway-specific AI Content Standards – e.g., Machining – computer vision, predictive maintenance, process optimization, smart systems, etc.
- Pathway Revalidation – BEAT, Futuring Panels, Criticality Survey, Curriculum Committees

Programs and Pathways Cont.

New Pathways Coming Soon:

- Health Science – Behavioral and Mental Health
- Health Science – Sports Medicine
- Computer Science - Artificial Intelligence

BECOME AN AI PIONEER IN KENTUCKY 2026 AI TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1
SPACE LIMITED TO 8 FELLOWS

APPLY NOW 

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FFA Leadership Training Center

- The Kentucky FFA Foundation will receive an \$11 million gift from the Bill Gatton Foundation, the largest donation to any FFA Foundation in U.S. history.
- This gift impacts the FFA LTC directly through enhancements to the center and campus, as well as the camp experience.
- The FFA LTC will be renamed the Carol Martin Gatton Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center in honor of this historic gift.

FFA Leadership Training Center Budget Requests

CMG KY FFA LTC Classroom/Activity Center - \$5,233,000

This is the 2nd Phase of the “Construct Leadership Training Classrooms and Activity Center” project authorized in FY 2025 for \$6.0 million.

CMG KY FFA LTC Swimming Pool Renovation - \$2,550,000

The pool was originally opened in 1950. A recent evaluation noted that major repairs need to be made. This pool is used as part of safety instruction as well as recreation at camp.

Legislative Update

Lauren Graves, Ph.D., Policy Advisor

16 KAR 2:020

- Occupation-based career and technical education teacher certification was approved by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) at its September 8, 2025 meeting. The regulation has been filed with LRC.
- Most amendments bring clarity to the requirements and process to align with practice.
- Section 5: Electricity, Plumbing, and HVAC.
 - Individuals holding a Kentucky issued master license earned through proper assessment will no longer be required to earn an associate's degree.
 - Assessment requirements in 16 KAR 6:020
 - NTI (professional learning: classroom management, lesson planning and curriculum, assessment, academic integration of numeracy and literacy, and instruction for students with special learning needs)
 - Rank III

26 Legislative Priorities

- Inclusion of ATCs in supplemental funding (budget bill language)
- Amend KRS 156.802 to include FFA Leadership Training Center
- Amend KRS 156.808(3) to include the term "maternity" to allow for maternity leave for 156 employees, like 161 employees (per 25RS SB 9).

CTE Empowered





CTE Empowered and Unlocked

- Take a moment to think about what education will look like in 25 years and in 50 years.



CTE Unlocked



- What will be the same?
- What will be different?
- How will CTE fit into the overall education bucket?
- What role will business and industry (B&I) play in education?
- What role does artificial intelligence play in tomorrow's education?

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CTE Unlocked

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How does the previous video influence your perspective?

CTE – Past, Present, and Future

Feature	1999: Vocational Education Era	Current: Career & Technical Education (CTE)	Potential Future: 2050 (AI/Tech Focused)
Primary Focus	Vocational Skills for specific trades (e.g., agriculture, home economics, industrial education, business, health occupations).	Career Pathways (16 National Career Clusters) with integration of core academics, work-based learning, and industry credentials.	Adaptable, High-Tech Skills with emphasis on AI, automation, green technologies, soft skills, and entrepreneurial thinking.
Nomenclature/Identity	Often referred to as Vocational Education or Occupational Education.	Officially known as Career and Technical Education (CTE).	Likely to be integrated into all education as Career-Connected Learning or Skills & Innovation Pathways.
Accountability & Standards	Standards were state-developed, often tied to local employer needs. Focus on the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA).	Rigorous accountability for College and Career Readiness, valuing industry-recognized credentials, dual credit, and TRACK (pre-apprenticeships).	Focus on verified competency portfolios, micro-credentials, and transferable, in-demand skills for rapid economic shifts.
Delivery Model	Delivered through Area Technology Centers (ATCs), comprehensive high schools, and limited programs at postsecondary institutions (now KCTCS).	Pathways of Study linking secondary and postsecondary education. Increased emphasis on dual credit and work-based learning (WBL).	Hybrid/Virtual Learning becomes the norm. Ubiquitous WBL; regional hubs for specialized, cutting-edge technology training.
Technological Integration	Early stages of technology adoption; focused on preparing students for the industrial and information technology jobs of the era.	Technology infusion in curriculum; emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Computer Science.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes a central tool and subject. Immersive learning (VR/AR), robotics, and data science are core to many pathways.

CTE Commitment

1. Drive positive outcomes for learners and employers
2. Support educators, industry and learners in adopting ethical and intentional uses of AI
3. Intentionally integrate CTE into education for learners of all levels
4. Increase personalization and flexibility within pathways for every learner
5. Create a coherent CTE system where education and industry work as equal partners and co-designers
6. Respond to the needs of the whole learner

Middle School Exploration

- Grant including Arkansas, Arizona, Washington, Pennsylvania and Kentucky
- Developing middle school career exploration plan for district utilizing student feedback for planning and incorporating staff training and flexibility.

Questions and Feedback



Reflection and Adjournment

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner