

Career Connect Washington

Connecting real work skills and classroom learning for youth

Career and Technical Education (CTE) promotes and supports middle and high school programs that provide 21st Century, academic and technical skills for students. CTE is designed to improve the relevance and value of a student's educational experience through contextual learning, preparing students for both college and career opportunities.

Career Connect Washington (CCW) is a statewide coalition of industry, labor, education, government, and community leaders, committed to expanding access to work-based learning aligned with CTE pathways. Within this work group, specific change-makers were established in regions across the state, to include regional networks, program builders, industry associations, K-12 Career Connected Learning managers at Educational Service Districts, and industry sector leads, all working to expand Career Connected Learning opportunities across a continuum of activities to improve career awareness, exploration, preparation, and launch.

In recognition that all students have different challenges and varied opportunities which can be further impacted by geographic location, gender, income level, ability, race, ethnicity, etc., CCW has intentionally centered their initiatives around serving underserved populations and those furthest from opportunity.

By weaving together high-quality CTE and workforce training, young adults can envision careers of purpose and impact, securing financial security through opportunities for meaningful work in high-demand sectors.

CCW Continuum of Career Connected Learning

The CCW Continuum includes three main components: Career Explore, Career Prep and Career Launch. We know that each of these play an important role in supporting student success.



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[Career Launch](#) programs are considered the most comprehensive, as they bridge the gap between classroom learning, and the practical knowledge and specific skills needed to enter the workforce. Career Launch endorsed program elements include classroom instruction aligned to industry/academic standards (CTE Graduation Pathways), meaningful work experience (paid internships or registered apprenticeships), and a valuable credential beyond high school (Industry Recognized Credential or college certificate). Washington State has established a goal in which 60% of all young adults (aged 16–30) will have participated in a Career Launch program by 2030.

Career Launch definition



For program examples, please [research CCW programs statewide](#).

Resources

Please reach out to the [Career Connected Learning Coordinators](#) in each Educational Service District and join the collaborative work to transform Career and Technical Education and Career Connected Learning in each region.

Contact

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