BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL · CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CTE & Training Program Checklist

Compare CTE pathways, apprenticeships, and trade and technical schools, and know what to ask.

Student _____ **Career interests** _____

Explore the options

- ☐ Ask your school or district which CTE pathways, career academies, or regional career centers are available, and how students enroll
- ☐ Find out which industry certifications local employers look for in your student's field of interest
- ☐ Look into apprenticeships, including pre-apprenticeship or youth apprenticeship options for high school students
- ☐ Compare trade and technical schools and community college certificate programs

Compare programs side by side

	Program 1:	Program 2:	Program 3:
Type	☐ HS pathway ☐ Apprenticeship ☐ Trade/tech school ☐ Comm. college	☐ HS pathway ☐ Apprenticeship ☐ Trade/tech school ☐ Comm. college	☐ HS pathway ☐ Apprenticeship ☐ Trade/tech school ☐ Comm. college
Credential or certification earned			
Registered apprenticeship or accredited program?			
Licensing exam required for the field?			
Length and schedule			
Total cost (tuition, tools, fees)			
Paid training or financial aid available?			
Hands-on experience, internships, work-based learning			
Do credits transfer to a college?			
How graduates do in finding related work			
Location and commute			

Questions to ask about any CTE program

- [ ] What credential or certification does the program lead to?
- [ ] Does it include hands-on experience, internships, or work-based learning?
- [ ] Do credits transfer to a college if the student wants to continue?
- [ ] What does it cost, and is financial aid or paid training available?
- [ ] How do graduates do in finding related work?

Before you commit

- [ ] Check accreditation, and the licensing requirements for the field where your student plans to work
- [ ] Get the total cost, schedule, and refund policy in writing
- [ ] Talk to current students, graduates, or employers in the field
- [ ] Remember that paths can combine: a certification now can lead to college or an apprenticeship later

Our top choice and why

Next steps and dates

General information only, not legal, tax, or placement advice. Rules, dates, and requirements vary by state, district, school, and program. Always confirm details with each school, district, or official source.