



A Union of Professionals

Every Student Succeeds Act

A New Day in Public Education

Career and Technical Education

The Every Student Succeeds Act incorporates provisions to help strengthen career and technical education in schools across the country. For the first time, elementary and secondary schools will be allowed to use Title IV education funding specifically for instruction and training. ESSA includes provisions to help expand career counseling, modernize high schools with work-based learning opportunities, and designate CTE as a part of a well-rounded education along with traditional subjects including English, math and science.

- **Alignment of academic standards to CTE:** Every state must develop challenging academic standards that are aligned with relevant state CTE standards.
- **Career counseling:** ESSA includes career and guidance counseling programs, as well as training on local workforce needs and options for postsecondary and career pathways, as allowable uses of funds under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants in Title IV.
- **CTE integration and professional development:** A new allowable use of funds under Title II of ESSA will support states developing strategies for integrating academic and career and technical education content. Title II funds may also be used for professional development for CTE teachers.
- **CTE as a core academic subject:** Career and technical education is included in the definition of a “well-rounded education” along with traditional academic subjects like math and English.
- **Career readiness indicators:** States are encouraged to use more career readiness indicators in their accountability system and state report cards, so states will have the opportunity to recognize schools that are successfully preparing students for postsecondary education and the workforce through tools like technical skills and college credits. These provisions will help students build skills that prepare them for in-demand career industries ranging from computer coding to welding, so they can compete in tomorrow’s workforce.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.6 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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