

# International Technical High School Analysis (NC<sup>3</sup>T Design Specifications)

## Florida

### Background

In 2013, [Governor Rick Scott](#) signed [Senate Bill 1076](#), which includes:

- A diploma pathway for students going on to college or a career, demonstrating mastery of high school graduation requirements and including earning national industry certifications
- A financial literacy course requirement
- Bonuses for teachers who provide instruction toward attaining industry certifications
- Creation of metrics describing performance of state universities and colleges

Florida's major CTE legislation, the [Florida Career and Professional Education Act](#) (May 2007), calls for collaboration between school districts and business groups to establish career and professional academies that focus on college and university credits and national industry certifications in high-demand jobs. Additionally, [legislation](#) passed in 2011 defined career-themed courses – a course or series of courses leading to industry certification and aligned with priority workforce needs and required districts to offer at least two career-themed courses.

### Description of the Florida's High School System and CTE

#### Graduation Requirements

All students must pass the 10<sup>th</sup> grade [Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test](#) (FCAT) or a concordant standardized test such as the ACT or SAT. Students must also pass an [end-of-course \(EOC\) assessment](#) to earn the required credit in Algebra I, geometry, Biology I, U.S. history, and civics. The current [standard diploma](#) is based around a 24 credit program of study that requires at least one credit through online learning and

English: 4 credits

Mathematics: 4 credits (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, or their equivalents)

Science: 3 credits (including Biology or an equivalent course and two credits with a lab component)

Social studies: 3 credits (including U.S. history, world history, economics, and U.S. government)

Fine or performing arts: 1 credit

Physical education: 1 credit  
Electives: 8 credits

Florida offers a number of alternative high school degree options:

- An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program
- An Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma Program
- A three-year, 18-credit, accelerated college preparatory program (at least 6 credits in courses such as dual enrollment and Advanced Placement)
- A three-year, 18-credit, accelerated career preparatory program that requires 3-4 credits in a CTE pathway and waives required credits in world language, fine or performing arts, and physical education; or an online learning course

In 2013, the Florida legislature adopted [new graduation requirements](#) that took effect for the freshman class of 2013-2014 and allow students to take more CTE courses in a particular career pathway, in place of some academic requirements when the CTE courses meet rigorous academic standards, and earn industry certifications as part of a pathway to a diploma.

### Career and Technical Education

Florida has adopted the national Career Clusters® model, and added one additional cluster in Energy. Students may participate in CTE in several instructional arrangements, including comprehensive high schools that may include [career academies](#) (small personalized learning communities within a high school that include a college-prep curriculum with a career theme and partnerships with employers, the community, and higher education), and in [district technical centers](#) that include secondary and postsecondary instruction.

Florida CTE courses must meet the standards in the [state frameworks](#), aligned with [Florida's Sunshine State Standards](#). The course standards include thresholds for performance, academics, and technical skills. The FLDOE, through the [Workforce Education Division](#), approves secondary CTE programs. Postsecondary CTE students may attend postsecondary [technical centers](#), [community colleges](#), [public state universities and colleges](#), and [independent private universities and colleges](#).

### Teacher Preparation

The FLDOE lists five CTE teacher certifications

- [Agriculture \(grades 6-12\)](#)
- [Business Education \(grades 6-12\)](#)
- [Family and Consumer Science \(grades 6-12\)](#)
- [Technology Education \(grades 6-12\)](#)
- [Marketing \(grades 6-12\)](#)

Each certification requires a bachelor's or higher degree with a major in the subject or 30 semester credit hours in the subject, including specific content areas.

CTE educator [professional development](#) includes the CTE Academic Integration Institute and [Career and Technical Education Reading](#), which allows a CTE teacher to serve as a reading intervention teacher in CTE courses. Florida's CTE teachers may also take advantage of a Carl D. Perkins statewide leadership grant through the College of Central Florida that allows them to pursue state-approved [industry certifications](#).

## Career Planning

The FLDOE Website provides several resources regarding career planning, such as an [educator's toolkit for career and education planning](#) that includes lesson plans, related sources, and postsecondary education information. The [Florida Choices](#) and [Career Cruiser](#) Web pages provide extensive information about planning for high school, college, financial aid, and careers, including planning guides for parents and students. Finally, the counseling Web pages provide the structure for school and career guidance, including the [School Counseling and Guidance Framework](#) and [Counseling and Guidance Book 2](#), which lay out the guidelines for provision of counseling for P-12 students.

## Business and Social Partner Participation

The FLDOE Career and Adult Education [Business Partners](#) Web page includes a list of business partners that “provide the opportunity to initiate, develop, foster, and execute collaborative education/business partnerships”. FLDOE also provides a [media kit](#) for career academies, industries, and parents, customizable for local uses. Finally, Florida approved [apprenticeships](#) provide on-the-job training, classroom instruction, and nationally recognized certifications. In 2012, the FLDOE had registered 228 apprenticeship programs, serving 7700 apprentices, in partnership with [statewide business partners](#).

## Pathways

Florida has implemented the 16 nationally recognized Career Clusters® and added an Energy cluster. FLDOE provides a [framework](#) for each of these 17 clusters, that includes purpose, structure, courses, academic alignment, student organizations, work-based learning opportunities, essential skills, curriculum standards, and articulation opportunities, as well as middle school frameworks where applicable. Students may take advantage of [statewide articulation agreements](#) in more than 40 program areas. Florida's secondary students may earn postsecondary credit through [dual enrollment](#), [statewide articulation](#), early admission, AP/IB, and credit by examination. [Career dual enrollment](#) allows secondary students to pursue industry certifications that apply to their high school diploma. The [Dual Enrollment Course-High School Subject Area Equivalency List](#) lists many (but not all) of the secondary to postsecondary dual enrollment linkages, as well as guidelines for linkages between courses that are not on the

list. Florida school districts pay for dual enrollment courses that secondary students take at colleges.

Florida has adopted the [Common Core State Standards](#) and is a governing state in and the fiscal agent for the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#), a consortium of 18 states, the District of Columbia, and U. S. Virgin Islands that is working to develop K-12 mathematics and English college and career assessments.

The Florida legislature funds [Florida Ready to Work](#), which is an employee credentialing program that tests and verifies employee skills, and issues state certificates with an ACT-authorized certificate number that employers can verify through the [National Career Readiness Certificate](#) database. The program provides resources for employers, students, educators, and workforce development partners, all of whom may participate at no cost.

### **Differences Between Vocational and Academic Preparation**

All students must pass the 10<sup>th</sup> grade [Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test \(FCAT\)](#) or a concordant standardized test as well as five [EOC assessments](#). Florida CTE students may earn an [accelerated career preparatory diploma](#). In place of the standard diploma requirement of 24 credits (described above), the career preparatory diploma requires 18 credits, which students complete in three years rather than four years. This diploma is designed to prepare students to enter a technical center, state college, or the workforce. The program focuses on academic courses and specific CTE courses, with fewer electives. Students in this program must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and earn at least a grade of 2.0 in each course in the program.

By contrast, students may also opt for an [accelerated college preparatory diploma](#), designed to prepare student to enter any state postsecondary institution. As with the career preparatory diploma, this program allows students to graduate in three years with fewer electives but includes specific academic requirements such as higher-level mathematics, a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and at least a 3.0 in all courses in the program.

### **Use of Data to Assess Outcomes**

Florida's [statewide longitudinal data system](#) (SLDS) aims to

- Increase the number and capacity of comprehensive statewide longitudinal data systems
- Promote the ability to generate accurate and timely data to meet federal reporting requirements
- Support evidence-based decision-making
- Increase the efficiency and organization of transferring educational data among schools, districts, and states in order to improve student achievement

- Integrate disparate and independently developed/operating PK-12, Florida College System (formerly called Community Colleges), and workforce education data systems into a comprehensive education data warehouse (EDW v2.0) system
- Facilitate collection, storage, and dissemination of staff- and student-specific data
- Improve the quality of data that FLDOE maintains, and provide upstream edits and downstream analytics
- Enhance local instructional improvement systems with minimum standards, financial support to small and rural districts, and a platform to exchange related ideas and information

The FLDOE [SLDS Program Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource provides detailed information about use of the system, which, according to the program timeline should be fully migrated for use in the 2013-2014 school year. The system will assign each student in the Florida education system a unique identifier at the time the student enters the Florida system, enabling an administrative match data exchange among the FLDOE, local education agencies, and colleges; and integrating data among FLDOE, the Florida workforce development system, and the Florida college system.