

California Expands Career Technical Education

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California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed two pieces of legislation to expand career technical education programs (CTE) in the state. Each of the two new laws aims to connect CTE to postsecondary and career options, thus making the CTE courses more meaningful for students.

Under Assembly Bill 2855, the Superintendent of Public Instruction must issue grants to establish partnership academies in green technology in each of the state's nine economic regions and goods movement in each of the state's four transportation corridors. Partnership academies are schools within a high school that integrate academic and career technical education. Green technology partnership academies will train young people in emerging environmentally sound technologies. Goods movement partnership academies will educate students about the movement of goods in occupational areas such as port and terminal operations, shipping logistics, trucking, rail, air and security.

Assembly Bill 876 directs the University of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU) to provide assistance and expertise in developing a statewide, integrated model CTE curriculum. The legislation also directs the UC and CSU to publish an online resource that lists academic and technical courses at California Community Colleges meeting state university A-G admission requirements. Additionally, the online resource must identify partnerships between high schools and postsecondary institutions that grant university credit or advance standing for students who complete specific high school pathway programs.