



## Brief Policy Update of Career and Technical Education in California

As a state with a long-time commitment to career and technical education (CTE), California is experiencing an additional [resurgence of interest and support](#) for CTE. Below are a few policy highlights from recent years that demonstrate California's continued commitment to CTE across the state.

### Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program (CTEIGP)

This year, \$900 million was added to the state budget for the [Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program](#) (CTEIGP), introduced by Senator Mike McGuire. The purpose of the CTEIGP is to encourage the “development of new CTE programs and enhance and maintain current CTE programs... with the goal of providing pupils in kindergarten through grade twelve with the knowledge and skills necessary to transition to employment and postsecondary education.” School districts, county offices of education, charter schools and regional occupational centers were eligible to apply and grant recipients are expected to be announced on January 14, 2016.

### California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT)

In 2013, the Legislature passed and Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the [California Career Pathways Trust](#) (CCPT), an initiative spearheaded by the now former Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg. The purpose of the CCPT is to encourage the “development of sustained kindergarten through grade fourteen career pathways programs that connect businesses, kindergarten through grade twelve schools, and community colleges in order to better prepare students for the 21st century workplace.” \$250 million was made available to school districts, county superintendents of schools, charter schools, regional occupational centers, and community colleges for what was supposed to be a one-time competitive grant cycle.

On May 30, 2014, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson awarded \$250 million in grants to [39 recipients](#). Due to the program's popularity, lawmakers approved an additional \$250 million for 2015. On May 27, 2015, Torlakson awarded \$244 million in grants to [40 recipients](#) that “blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and software development.” Amounting to nearly \$500 million grants over a two-year period, the CCPT is the “largest program of its kind in the nation.”

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## Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards

In 2013, the State Board of Education adopted the revised [Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards](#), designed to prepare students for both college and careers. Created with input from more than 300 representatives from business and industry, labor, and postsecondary and secondary education, the revised standards outline [58 pathways](#) for graduating students ready for careers and college within 15 Industry Sectors.

These initiatives and dozens more fall under Torlakson's 2015 [Career Readiness Initiative](#) aimed at strengthening CTE education across the state of California.

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