

18.21 K-12 Career Technical Education

Board position 1997; resolution passed 2006; amended 2013

Whereas, Career Technical Education is helping our nation meet immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement and global competitiveness with some 14 million students enrolled in CTE nationwide, with programs in nearly 1,300 public high schools and 1,700 two-year-colleges; and

Whereas, Career Technical Education now incorporates both school-based and work-based learning business partnerships, which are key to successful programs; and

Whereas, virtually every high school student takes at least one vocational education course, and one in four students takes three or more courses in a single program area. One-third of college students are involved in vocational programs, and as many as 40 million adults engage in short-term postsecondary occupational training; and

Whereas, the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in Career Technical Education programs was 90.18 percent compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 74.9 percent in 2007-08; and

Whereas, 70 percent of students concentrating in Career Technical Education areas stayed in postsecondary education or transferred to a four-year degree program, compared to an average state target of 58 percent in 2007-08; and

Whereas, experts project 47 million job openings in the decade ending 2018 with about one-third requiring an associate's degree or certificate, and nearly all requiring real-world skills that can be mastered through Career Technical Education; and

Whereas, with the fastest-growing occupations requiring some postsecondary education, vocation education is seeking effective ways to contribute to national and state school reform efforts focused on academic achievement, and Career Technical Education is evolving from its original focus on preparing students for work immediately following high school.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA shall work to ensure that parents, students, and communities understand the importance, relevance, and benefits of strong K-12 Career Technical Education programs in Washington state; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA work to ensure that adequate state resources are available to support both the operational and capital needs of K-12 Career Technical Education programs.