

Issue Date: January 29, 2024

# Flexible Pathways Toolkit Talking Points

## Career and Technical Education

Is this Flexible Pathway option the best choice? Below are prompting questions to be used with the [Vermont Flexible Pathways Tool](#) to assist in a conversation to determine if this pathway is the best fit. These sources do not represent an exhaustive list but are intended to provide a basis for discussion.

### What is Career and Technical Education?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a learning approach that involves both academic study and hands-on real-world training in a variety of career paths and concentrations. CTE is helping our state and our nation meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement and global competitiveness. CTE is developing Vermont's most valuable resource—its people; helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation, and real-world experience they need to prepare for high skill, high demand, high wage careers or post-secondary educational opportunities—and keep Vermont working—in every sense of the word.

### Why Career and Technical Education?

- Career Exploration
- Explore subjects not offered in high school/interesting classes
- Learning directly from experts in that field of study
- Access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology
- Prioritize courses that relate to their specific field of study
- Appropriate rigor/academic challenge
- Increased applicability of skills
- Courses are designed to educate and benefit you in your chosen industry
- Time and money considerations for future salary
- Interesting tasks and topics
- Become familiar with industry programs, systems, and expectations
- Workplace learning opportunities that often lead to full time employment
- Opportunities to experience what a future workplace might be like
- Seeking individualized and attentive training
- Earn Industry Recognized Credentials
- Additional access to free college credits through Fast Forward/Dual Enrollment

### Are you ready for a Career and Technical Education Program?

- CTE eligibility requirements met
- Social emotional reflection
  - Self-awareness - Demonstrates self-advocacy, self-motivation
  - Social awareness – Understanding social and ethical norms

Contact: Student Pathways Division at [AOE.DualEnrollment@vermont.gov](mailto:AOE.DualEnrollment@vermont.gov)

- Self-management – Critical thinking, problem solving
- Responsible decision making – Time management
- Relationship skills – Communication, networking
- Learning environment aligns with learning style
- Employability skills
- Academic Reflection
  - Meets CTE minimum academic entrance proficiency expectations and program-specific entry/eligibility requirements
  - CTE experience aligns with learning goals in PLP
  - Attendance record
  - The IEP team or the 504 team approves of enrollment and agrees it's an appropriate placement
    - Updated IEP/504 documents
    - Become familiar with accommodations/modifications available

## **Do you have?**

- Family or caregiver, community, and college support outside of secondary school
- Transportation if needed beyond regular busing
- Time built into school schedule to incorporate CTE program

## **Have you?**

- Visited your local career and technical center
- Spoke with a CTE advisor, school counselor, and guardians

## **Have you thought about?**

- Being away from your high school for part or all of each day while having the opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests
- Time management tools you will use to balance a CTE opportunity with a sports/club activity and meeting other obligations at home and/or at an outside job
- Maintaining grades necessary to continue your CTE placement