



Career and Technical Student Organizations

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is helping our nation address key challenges such as workforce development, student achievement, economic vitality and global competitiveness.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are key components to strong CTE programs. They (CTSOs) integrate into CTE programs and courses and extend teaching and learning through innovative programs, business and community partnerships and leadership experiences at the school, state and national levels.

- CTSOs provide relevant, engaging programs that improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates and help students discover the wide range of career options available.
- CTSOs engage the community and local businesses to help students understand global competition and chart effective and efficient pathways through high school and postsecondary education for their personal success.
- CTSO programs, such as industry based competitive events and community service, provide students with the opportunity to develop 21st Century Skills focused on creativity, problem solving, teamwork and goal setting.
- CTSOs bring relevance to the classroom and prepare students to be college and career ready.

MAKING AN IMPACT

With more than 2 million student members combined, these 11 organizations have a definite impact on student's overall college and career readiness.



Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students.



According to the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, participating in leadership and professional development activities in a CTSO raises students' educational aspirations.



Students who participate in school organizations in 10th grade have higher grade point averages and are more likely to be enrolled in college at 21 than other students.

VIRGIN ISLANDS STATE PROFILE

315

CTSO members statewide

DID YOU KNOW?

CTE programs are supported at the federal level by the **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act**, which provides approximately \$1.2 billion dollars in state grants annually to serve more than 14 million students nationwide.

Career and Technical Student Organizations are comprised of 11 not-for-profit organizations, specifically authorized by the **U.S. Congress** in the Perkins Act.

CTSOs align with the 16 career clusters and 79 Career Pathways recognized by CTE.

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CTSO members in Congressional District 1

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