

1.05.02 The Universal Benefits of CTE and Jump Start

The first CTE Leadership Academy Core Belief (see bottom of page) states: **"Every student is a career student."** Whatever path a student uses to graduate from high school, he / she will eventually become an employed adult. **High school is the time when students develop the life skills they'll need to be successful adults – educated and discerning, aware of their civic rights and responsibilities, and capable of gainful employment.**

All students must become literate and numerate before graduation. CTE courses provide a motivating way to master critical literacy and numeracy skills, while also providing unique benefits to all students.

1) Brings context / relevance to academic subjects – students can engage in hands-on, project-based learning in CTE courses in a way that isn't typical of academic courses. CTE is particularly well-suited for students who are "hands-on" learners (see next point). But CTE courses enable academically-inclined students to view intellectual concepts from a more practical applied perspective, bringing a new energy and level of interest to their studies.

2) Engages students in ways not possible in academic subjects – traditional "vo-tech" courses (like Skilled Trades) have always been effective for tactile learners. But as CTE has evolved, there are now Jump Start courses (like Advanced Manufacturing, IT / Coding, Pre-Engineering, Coastal Restoration) that combine conceptual learning with hands-on applied assignments.

These new CTE / Jump Start courses give students opportunities for applied learning that is rare in academic-subject courses. *Coordinated joint assignments by CTE and academic-subject teachers provide a unique opportunity for students to understand the linkage between intellectual concept and applied reality.*

Universal Benefits of CTE

- 1) Brings context / relevance to academic subjects
- 2) Engages students in ways not possible in academic subjects
- 3) Enables students to gain insights into their adult future

3) Enables students to gain insights into their adult future – CTE courses enable high school students to experience different careers. Some students will find their niche, studying in high school the career they'll pursue with great satisfaction as adults. That's terrific. Other students will take courses in a career pathway they end up *hating* – and that's terrific too. It's far better for students to learn this type of life lesson as teenagers versus coming to this realization as young adults when changing careers encounters lots of life barriers.

The best news: Louisiana is a national leader in offering CTE courses relevant to all students. Internships (including those that generate CDF funds), the Virtual Workplace Experience II course, and the new generation of career readiness courses provide opportunities for all students to engage in CTE courses consistent with the scheduling demands of even university-bound students.

(Note: over half of all Louisiana high school seniors take a course load of 4 courses or fewer . . . meaning that seniors have time in their schedules for a wage-paying internship or the VWE II course while still completing their required Jump Start or TOPS courses.)

Courses that Deliver CTE Benefits to All Students

- 1) Internships, including CDF-qualifying internships (080200 through 080203)
- 2) Virtual Workplace Experience II (080207)
- 3) Any of the many available / upgraded Career Readiness Courses (*not* including Journey to Careers)

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Jump Start Summers enable all students to complete CTE courses and earn industry-based credentials (IBCs), while also earning a summer wage

A key objective for all CTE leaders should be finding ways for their academic-subject colleagues (and school counselors) to engage all students in CTE courses / assignments, so that all students experience the unique benefits of CTE courses.

CTE Leadership Academy Core Beliefs

1	Every student is a career student. Because every student will be an employed adult, K-12 must prepare <u>all</u> our students for life-long learning and career success.	<p>Note: "CTE Strong!" is a trademark owned by Edge Factor.</p> <p><i>Please contact JumpStart@la.gov to learn about the Edge Factor resources that help you communicate with parents and students about CTE.</i></p>
2	CTE leaders must engage industry experts, fellow educators and parents to promote academic relevance and workplace-based learning.	
3	CTE leaders need to team with district leaders, school counselors and academic-subject educators to address the whole student.	
4	CTE Strong! <i>An expanded cohort of well-respected, credentialed CTE leaders is essential to the success of our students and to our state's future prosperity.</i>	