Career and Technical Education in Alabama 2014

Results from a survey conducted by the Career and Technical Education Consortium for the Alabama State Department of Education
About This Survey

This survey was commissioned by the Alabama State Department of Education and was developed to measure opinions about the quality of education currently being offered in Alabama’s K-12 public schools – specifically Alabama’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs – and to help the Alabama State Department of Education provide better service to students, parents, and local communities statewide.

The 2014 survey explored respondents’ general opinions about career and college readiness, the importance of attending college, the importance of having an individual learning plan, and the importance of earning a credential in high school. The survey also explored whether school districts’ Career and Technical Education programs are aligned to workforce demands in the local community.

Analysis comes from an online survey conducted between January 12, 2014, and February 28, 2014, among 2,027 voters identifying themselves as Republican, Democrat, or something else. The margin of sampling error for this Alabama citizens group is plus or minus 2.18 percent for results based on the total sample at the 95 percent confidence level.

Additional analysis comes from a smaller survey of groups identifying themselves as students, teachers, administrators, parents, or industry advisory group members (717 respondents). The margin of sampling error for students is plus or minus 4.24 percent based on a sample of 533 at the 95 percent confidence level. The margin of sampling error for teachers/administrators is 9.30 percent based on a sample of 147 at the 95 percent confidence level. In addition, survey responses from parents and industry advisory groups were minuscule (18 “parent” respondents, 19 “industry/advisory” respondents) and are not included in the results. Both the Alabama citizen survey and the smaller survey contained identically worded or similarly worded questions so that responses could be compared among groups.

The surveys were designed and developed by the Career and Technical Education Consortium of States (CTECS), nationally recognized for its expertise in developing standards and assessments based on valid analysis, in consultation with the Alabama State Department of Education’s Career and Technical Education Section.

Similar phone surveys were conducted for the Alabama State Department of Education in 2003, 2005, and 2008.
About the Partners

CTECS has a 40-year history of operating as a consortium of states, where members pool their resources to develop competency-based resources to meet the standards of global business and industry. CTECS has worked with numerous federal and state agencies.

The Alabama State Department of Education’s primary goal is to prepare students for a lifetime of success – to be both college and career ready. Career and Technical Education programs are offered in schools throughout the state. These programs offer students opportunities to learn valuable career skills. Alabama Career and Technical Education students meet rigorous academic requirements to earn their high school diplomas.
Who are the Respondents?

In the survey, respondents were nearly equally split among those who identified as Democrats (34.58 percent), Republicans (33.74 percent), and Independents or Something Else (31.67).

Respondents in this group who chose to answer demographic questions (n=1,468) were mostly white (74.14 percent) and African American (15.74 percent), with a smaller percentage identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native (2.25 percent), Hispanic or Latino (0.95 percent), or Asian or Pacific Islander (0.68 percent). The remainder (7.15 percent) chose not to answer.

The respondents were more female (63.22 percent) than male (36.78 percent), and most fell within the range of 35 to 64 years old. Forty-two of Alabama’s 67 counties are represented in the survey group.

About half of respondents (50.14 percent) said they had a graduate or professional school education. Nearly all (93.66 percent) answered that they had at least a high school education.

Students who responded to demographic questions (n=502) were mostly white (58.17 percent) and African American (35.06 percent), with a smaller percentage Hispanic or Latino (6.97 percent), American Indian or Alaskan Native (4.58 percent), and Asian or Pacific Islander (2.79 percent).

Student respondents were more female (51.59 percent) than male (48.41 percent), and most reported that they were freshmen, sophomores, or juniors.
Preparedness for Jobs and Careers

Alabama citizens responded favorably (64.74 percent) when asked whether academic courses prepared students for an entry-level job or a career. Among the 643 comments respondents made:

• “Students must have basic skills in order to function and communicate.”
• “Students need to have job skills beyond core classes and a good work ethic to be successful.”

They responded even more favorably (83.92 percent) when asked whether career and technical education courses prepare students for an entry-level job or a career. Among the 623 comments respondents made:

• “These classes teach job skills that are necessary for many entry-level jobs.”
• “CareerTech classes give a more specialized foundation and possible advanced training in a career field whether it be for a student on the college or direct to work path.”

When student respondents were asked the same questions, 87.05 percent said that academic courses prepared them for an entry-level job or career. Among the 368 comments:

• “They make you think critically and become more mentally demanding each year.”

Slightly fewer student respondents (81.97 percent) said career and technical education courses would prepare them for an entry-level career or job. Among the 314 comments:

• “They give you more hands-on experience, rather than teaching you one thing and never explaining how to use it in the workforce.”

A majority of students (79.79 percent) responded that they would be interested in earning a credential while in high school to help them get an entry-level job.

Q. Do you think academic courses prepare Alabama’s students for an entry-level job or career?

Citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=1,716

Q. Do you think career and technical education courses prepare students for an entry-level job or career?

Citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=1,716

Q. Would you be interested in earning a credential—an industry-recognized measure of your achievement in a technical area—while in high school that would help you get an entry-level job?

Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(n=480)

Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(n=477)
Is a Four-year College Degree Necessary?

When asked whether a four-year college degree was necessary for a successful career, Alabama citizens answered “No” more often (73.83 percent) than “Yes.”

Teacher/administrators (n=111) also responded “No” more often (86.49 percent) than “Yes” when asked the same question.

When asked a similar question, students in this survey responded in much the same way as the larger sample group. Nearly 82 percent said that not all careers require a degree from a four-year college.

In previous surveys, citizens have responded quite differently when asked the same question. Telephone surveys of registered voters trended about 60 percent in 2003, 2005, and 2008 in saying that, yes, a four-year college degree was necessary (Citizens’ Opinions About Career & Technical Education in Alabama, Southern Opinion Research).

However, when asked in the 2014 survey how important it would be for their child to attend college, Alabama citizens largely responded that it was Important (31.61 percent) or Very Important (62.38 percent). When asked how important it would be for that child to be ready for a career upon graduation, nearly all of Alabama citizens responded that it was Very Important or Important.

Q. In your opinion, is a four-year college degree necessary for a successful career?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Citizens</th>
<th>Educators</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Do you think that all careers require a degree from a four-year college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not Very Important</th>
<th>Not at All/Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educators</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Suppose you had a child in your household. How important do you think it would be for that child to attend college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not Very Important</th>
<th>Not at All/Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. How important do you think it would be for that child to be ready for a career upon graduation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not Very Important</th>
<th>Not at All/Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Survey of CTE
Favorable Ratings for Public Education

Just as many Alabama citizens rated the quality of public education in the state as “Fair” as they did “Good” on a scale of Poor to Excellent.

About half of the state’s teachers and administrators responded that the quality of public education in the state was “Good,” while about one-quarter rated it as Very Good or Fair.

**Q.** Overall, how would you rate the quality of public education in Alabama?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Citizens</th>
<th>Educators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest in Career-Type Programs

Citizens responded that it was Very Important (76.34 percent) when asked their opinion about whether it was important to offer career and technical education programs in public schools.

Teachers and administrators also responded that it was Very Important (89.09 percent).

Work-based Learning

When asked about the importance of work-based learning experiences to a child’s education, Alabama citizens considered it to be Very Important (69.88 percent), as did the teacher/administrators who were asked the same question (75.45 percent).

Who would benefit from CTE programs?

Both groups (Alabama citizens and teacher/administrators) held similar opinions about the type of student that would benefit from career and technical education courses. Nearly 90 percent of the teacher/administrators responded that all students would benefit, with smaller subgroups of students not likely to attend college and at-risk students. Alabama citizens responded similarly, with nearly 80 percent identifying all students, followed by students not likely to attend college and at-risk students (Table 1).
Table 1: Percentage of student types who would benefit from CTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q. What types of students would benefit from career and technical education programs? (Please select all that apply.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At-Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens (n=1,547)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College-Bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Likely to Attend College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-performing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: How citizen respondents rate student organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q. How would you rate career and technical student organizations in preparing students for careers?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECA (marketing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Business Leaders of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Farmers of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOSA (health sciences)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkillsUSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Student Association (TSA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rigor in Career and Technical Education

Survey participants were asked their opinions about career and technical education students’ ability to take rigorous academic and career and technical education courses.

Generally, citizens believe students can earn advanced diplomas while taking career and technical education courses (83.06 percent responded “Yes.”)

Students themselves overwhelmingly responded positively (84.93 percent) when asked if they could take CTE courses and graduate with an advanced degree or an associate degree upon graduation.

Alabama citizens agree (88.13 percent) that career and technical education students can earn college credit or take classes that allow them to attend college.

In addition, about three-quarters of survey respondents say it is Very Important that career and technical education instructors/administrators work with local businesses in the community when the schools design their career and technical education programs.

Teacher/administrator responses (n=112) differed when asked similar questions. When asked about whether taking advanced academic courses would prevent students from taking career and technical education courses, the majority answered “Yes” (56.25 percent). The respondents also believe students can earn college credit or take classes that allow them to attend college (89.09 percent).

This group also responded “Yes” (55.36 percent) when asked whether athletic/band activities would prevent a student from taking career and technical education courses.

And, teacher/administrator respondents were nearly unanimous in saying they would encourage students to take career and technical education courses to graduate with a credential or an associate degree in an occupation (99.11 percent).

Q. If you could take career and technical education courses in high school and graduate with an advanced diploma or an associate degree in an occupation, would you?

Q. Do you believe students in Alabama can earn advanced diplomas in high school while taking career and technical education courses?

Q. Do you believe career and technical education students in Alabama can earn college credit for courses or take classes that allow them to attend college?
College and Career Readiness

In terms of preparedness for college, Alabama citizens held a favorable view, with about half saying that local school systems are moving in the right direction.

In terms of the job their local school systems are doing, most respondents said their local system as doing a Good (30.61 percent) or Average (31.42 percent) job on a Poor to Excellent scale. Nearly 14 percent said their school system was doing an Excellent job.

Teachers and administrators responded that Alabama’s local school systems are moving in the right direction with regard to preparing students for college (65.74 percent). They rate their local school systems as being Good (48.15 percent) to Average (27.78 percent) in preparing students for college.

Citizens were more confident about the local school systems’ preparation of students for careers, with 50.37 percent saying Alabama is moving in the right direction.

In terms of the job their local school systems are doing, most respondents said their local school system is doing an Average (31.22 percent) or Good (28.93 percent) job on a Poor to Excellent scale. Nearly 24 percent, however, rated their local system as Below Average to Poor. The counties most often cited as doing a Below Average to Poor job by Alabama residents were Montgomery (74), Jefferson (31), Houston (28), and Elmore (19). These four counties account for about 28 percent of the responses.

Teachers and administrators responded that Alabama’s local school divisions are moving in the right direction with regard to preparing students for careers (69.44 percent). They rate their local school systems as being Good (43.52 percent) to Average (37.04 percent) in preparing students for college.

Q. When it comes to preparing students for college, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Q. When it comes to preparing students for careers, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Q. Overall, how would you rate the job your local school system does in preparing students for college?

Q. Overall, how would you rate the job your local school system does in preparing students for a career?
Students: Credentials, Careers and Plans

When asked about plans after graduation from high school, most student respondents (63.55 percent) said they would enroll in a four-year college, while about 15 percent were undecided.

When asked where they saw themselves in four years, nearly one-third said they would be attending college, while others said they would be a high school graduate (27.08 percent) or a four-year college graduate (22.50 percent).

The majority of student respondents (85.06 percent) say the difference between a job and a career is that a job is work you do, but a career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills. To student respondents, the term credential means a certification (44.27 percent) or a recognition of achievement in a technical area (35.01 percent).

Career Preparedness

Two-thirds of student respondents (n=480) said they were enrolled in a Career Preparedness course. A little more than half of students reported that they have an individual learning plan (58.54 percent) and have identified a career they are interested in (83.54 percent).

Of those who have identified a career (n=396), respondents most often said their career choice involved getting a four-year degree (45.96 percent), while the next most frequent response was “Not Sure” (28.79 percent). Licensure/certification was an option for 15.40 percent and a two-year degree was an option for 9.85 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Counselor</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Parent(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each Quarter</td>
<td>22.32</td>
<td>40.63</td>
<td>70.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-year</td>
<td>33.18</td>
<td>39.17</td>
<td>56.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Academic Year</td>
<td>32.42</td>
<td>40.11</td>
<td>68.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>68.78</td>
<td>70.24</td>
<td>57.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students responded (n=376) that they review their learning plans with their parents, most often each quarter (70.54 percent) and at the end of the academic year (68.13 percent). They appeared less likely to review the plans with teachers or school counselors.
Identifying In-Demand Jobs in Alabama

All groups were asked in two questions to identify in-demand jobs in Alabama. One question asked respondents to identify jobs that paid close to the state’s median annual income for 2007-11, which was $42,934 (U.S. Census Bureau). The jobs listed in the survey were taken from Alabama’s Hot 40 Demand Occupations, produced by the Alabama Department of Labor.

The only group that seemed to have difficulty separating jobs near the median salary from high-wage jobs was the student respondent group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Median Income and In-demand Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question:</strong> The median income in Alabama was $42,934 between 2007-2011. Of these in-demand jobs in Alabama, which do you think would pay close to the median annual income?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Answer Options</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Computer Support Specialist</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dental Hygienist</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Diagnostic Medical Sonographer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Physical Therapist Assistant</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Radiologic Technologists and Technicians</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Registered Nurses</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Industrial Machinery Mechanics</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Community Service Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Annual wages pay close to the median income.
The second question asked respondents to identify jobs that would require a four-year degree. The educational requirements for the jobs listed in the survey were taken from *Alabama’s Hot 40 Demand Occupations*, produced by the Alabama Department of Labor.

The only group that seemed to have difficulty separating jobs requiring a four-year degree from other jobs was the student respondent group.

### Table 4: In-demand Jobs Requiring Four-year Degrees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Alabama citizens (n=1,581)</th>
<th>Students (n=467)</th>
<th>Teachers (n=115)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Support Specialist</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonographer</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistant</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Machinery Mechanics</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Database Administrator</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Social and Community Service Manager</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Software Developers</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Pharmacists</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Doctors</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*require a four-year degree.
Teacher/Administrator Survey Responses

Responses from these groups were too small to reliably correlate with the larger Alabama citizens group. The following data about responses to survey questions are offered with the understanding that they are only for informational purposes.

Of the responses given for teachers and administrators (n=142), 94.37 percent said they were teachers, and 5.63 percent said they were administrators.

Local need

Most respondents believe their school system’s career and technical education program meets the needs of their community (80.33 percent, n=122) and is aligned with local workforce demand (80.33 percent, n=122).

Concerns about Career and Technical Education Programs

This survey group (n=112) most often cited Program Funding as their highest concern, followed by Program Resources. Comments left in this question by the survey respondents:

- “Schools conforming to the new diploma changes; many are keeping their endorsements which are causing problems with students having available credits to take career tech courses … Lack of availability of courses at the junior high level.”
- “I feel that we have Career Tech Teachers that are not qualified for the field they are teaching.”
- “Parent and student acceptance of the program.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question: What are you most concerned about with regard to career and technical programs in Alabama?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased student enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased student enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job placement after graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement into careers that pay a living wage or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding a qualified teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A
Survey of Alabama Citizens
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

Introduction

We have selected you at random because we need your help with an important project. These questions will help you tell us how you see career and technical education in Alabama today. More importantly, you will guide us in creating the ideal career and technical education programs of tomorrow.

We are eager to hear your thoughts and opinions. The survey consists of 29 questions and should take about 15 minutes. Of course, we value your privacy. Any personal information and responses you provide in this survey will remain confidential.

1. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?
   - Republican
   - Democrat
   - Independent
   - Something else

CTE in Alabama

Alabama Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a statewide program designed to prepare students for college and for career opportunities in the fields of Agriscience, Business/Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Technical Education. This is accomplished by providing technical courses in high school, as well as hands-on experience, internships, apprenticeships, and cooperative education.

In the following questions, we will be asking for your opinions about college and career readiness.

2. Do you think academic courses (mathematics, science, English, and social studies) prepare Alabama's students for an entry-level job or a career?
   - Yes
   - No

   How? (please specify)
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

3. Do you think career and technical education courses prepare Alabama's students for an entry-level job or career?
   - Yes
   - No
   How? (please specify)

4. In your opinion, is a four-year college degree necessary for a successful career?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Don't know

5. What is the difference between a job and a career?
   - a job is work you do, but a career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.
   - a job is work you do to earn money, but a career takes money.
   - a career is any job that provides income to pay the bills.
   - a job is something you do until something better comes along.
   - a career is something you do until something better comes along.

CTE Survey (cont'd.)

That's right! A job is work you do, but a career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.

CTE Survey (cont'd.)

You're close. A job is work you do. A career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.
6. What does the term "credential" mean to you?
- Certification
- Licensure
- High school diploma
- Advanced degree
- Recognition of achievement in a technical area

A credential is a complete industry certification program, an occupational competency examination, a pathway examination that leads to industry certification, or a state-issued professional license.

Let's look at jobs and income in Alabama. Please give us your opinion about the following careers.

7. The median income in Alabama was $42,934 between: 2007-2011. Of these in-demand jobs in Alabama, which do you think would pay close to this median annual income?
- Computer Support Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Database Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Software Developers
- Pharmacists
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists
Nearly half of the jobs on the list pay at or above the median income in Alabama:
—computer support specialist;
—dental hygienist;
—diagnostic medical monographer;
—physical therapist assistant;
—radiologic technologists and technicians;
—registered nurses; and
—industrial machinery mechanics.

Database administrators, social and community service managers, software developers, pharmacists, doctors, and occupational therapists all earn more than the median income.

8. Which of these jobs do you think would require a four-year degree?
- Computer Support Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Database Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Software Developers
- Pharmacists
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists

Database administrators, social and community service managers, doctors, and occupational therapists and software developers require at least a bachelor’s degree from a four-year institution.

Thank you for your patience. We have just a few more questions for you to answer!
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

9. Overall, how would you rate the quality of public education in Alabama?
   - Poor
   - Fair
   - Good
   - Very good
   - Excellent

10. Suppose you had a child in your household. How important do you think it would be for that child to attend college?
    - Very important
    - Important
    - Not very important
    - Not at all important
    - Don't know

11. How important do you think it would be for that child to be ready for a career upon graduation?
    - Very important
    - Important
    - Not very important
    - Not at all important
    - Don't know

12. CTE programs offer students the opportunity to learn a skilled profession while meeting the academic standards of all students. How important do you think it is for public schools to offer career-type programs?
    - Very important
    - Important
    - Not very important
    - Not at all important
    - Don't know
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

13. How important do you think work-based learning—internships, job shadowing, clinical experiences—is to a child's education?
- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don’t know

14. What types of students would benefit from career and technical education programs? (Please select all that apply.)
- At-risk students
- College-bound students
- Students not likely to attend college
- Students with learning disabilities
- High-performing students
- All students

15. Do you believe students in Alabama can earn advanced diplomas in high school while taking career and technical education courses?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

16. Do you believe career and technical education students in Alabama can earn college credit for courses or take classes that allow them to attend college?
- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17. In designing their programs, how important is it for career and technical education instructors/administrators in your community to work closely with local businesses?</td>
<td>Very important, Important, Not very important, Not at all important, Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. When it comes to preparing students for COLLEGE, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?</td>
<td>Right direction, Wrong direction, Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Overall, how would you rate the job your local school system does in preparing students for college?</td>
<td>Excellent, Good, Average, Below average, Poor, Don't know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. When it comes to preparing students for CAREERS, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?</td>
<td>Right direction, Wrong direction, Don't know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

*21. Overall, how would you rate the job your local school system does in preparing students for a career?*

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Below average
- Poor
- Don't know

*22. Is it important for Alabama schools to use more technology (such as computers, tablets, electronic smart boards, or other technological devices) in the classroom?*

- Yes
- No

*23. How would you rate career and technical student organizations in preparing students for careers?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Organization</th>
<th>Not useful</th>
<th>Somewhat useful</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
<th>Extremely useful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECA (marketing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Farmers of America (FFA)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HOSA (health sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SkillsUSA</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Student Association (TSA)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CTE Survey--Demographic Information
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

This is the last part of the survey. We are going to ask a few questions about yourself.

24. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer

25. What is your gender?
- Female
- Male

26. What is the primary language spoken in your home?
- Spanish
- Korean
- French
- English
- Japanese
- Other

27. What is your age?
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

28. What is your county of residence?

Other (please specify)
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

29. How many years of education do you have?

- 8th grade
- 9th-11th grade
- High school graduate
- Business/technical school
- Some college
- Two-year college
- Four-year college
- College graduate
- Graduate school/professional school
- Don’t know

You have reached the end of your survey!

Thanks for taking a few minutes to answer our questions. The questions you answer will tell us how you see CTE programs today, and how we can improve and create a better CTE program for all of Alabama.
Appendix B
Survey of Students, Teacher/Administrators, Parents, and Business Advisory Councils
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

**Introduction**

Thank you for agreeing to take this survey about Career and Technical Education in Alabama. These questions will help you tell us how you see Career and Technical Education in Alabama today. More importantly, you will guide us in creating the ideal CTE programs of tomorrow.

We are eager to hear your thoughts and opinions. And, of course, we value your privacy. Any personal information and responses you provide in this survey will remain confidential.

**1. Are you a:**
- Student
- Teacher/Administrator
- Parent
- Part of an industry/advisory group

**Student survey**

This survey consists of about 20 questions and should take 10 to 15 minutes to complete. In this portion of the survey, we are going to ask you questions about your education and your career plans.

**2. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)**
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer

**3. What is your gender?**
- Female
- Male
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. What grade are you in?</td>
<td>- Freshman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sophomore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What do you plan to do after you graduate from high school?</td>
<td>- Enlist in the military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Go to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Enroll in a technical college or two-year college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Enroll in a four-year college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- More training through a private industry program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undecided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Do you think academic courses—mathematics, science, English, social studies—prepare you for an entry-level job or a career?</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How? (please specify)
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

7. Do you think career and technical education (CTE) courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career?

☐ Yes
☐ No

How? (please specify)

8. Do you think that all careers require a degree from a four-year college?

☐ Yes
☐ No

* 9. What is the difference between a job and a career?

☐ a job is work you do, but a career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.
☐ a job is work you do to earn money, but a career takes money.
☐ a career is any job that provides income to pay the bills.
☐ a job is something you do until something better comes along.
☐ a career is something you do until something better comes along.

Student Survey (cont’d.)

That’s right! A job is work you do, but a career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.

Student Survey (cont’d.)

You’re close. A job is work you do. A career is work you do that is based on your interests, abilities, and a plan for learning the necessary skills.

Student Survey—Credentials and Careers
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

*10. What does the term "credential" mean to you?*

- Certification
- Licensure
- High school diploma
- Advanced degree
- Recognition of achievement in a technical area

What does the term "credential" mean to you?

A credential is a complete industry certification program, an occupational competency examination, a pathway examination that leads to industry certification, or a state-issued professional license.

**Student Survey (cont'd.)**

*11. Would you be interested in earning a credential—an industry-recognized measure of your achievement in a technical area—while in high school that would help you get an entry-level job?*

- Yes
- No

*12. Where do you see yourself in four years?*

- High school graduate
- Attending college
- Two-year college graduate
- Four-year college graduate
- Employed
- Unemployed

*13. Are you enrolled in a Career Preparedness course?*

- Yes
- No
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

14. In high school, do you have an individual learning plan (a four-year plan that brings together your career goals with your academic courses)?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

15. Have you identified a career you are interested in?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No
   What career? (please specify)

Student Survey—Careers (cont’d.)

16. Does your career choice involve getting a two-year degree, four-year degree, or licensure/certification?
   ○ Two-year degree
   ○ Four-year degree
   ○ Licensure/certification
   ○ Not sure

17. How often do you review your learning plan with a counselor, teacher, or your parents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Counselor</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Parent(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of academic year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Survey (cont’d)

Now let’s talk about careers and wages. Tell us your opinion about the following careers in Alabama.
18. The median income in Alabama was $42,934 between 2007–2011. Of these in-demand jobs in Alabama, which do you think would pay close to this median annual income? (Choose all that apply.)

- Computer Support Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Database Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Software Developers
- Pharmacists
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists

Nearly half of the jobs on the list pay at or near the median income in Alabama:
- computer support specialist
- dental hygienist
- diagnostic medical sonographer
- physical therapist assistant
- radiologic technologists and technicians
- registered nurses; and
- industrial machinery mechanics.

Database administrators, social and community service managers, software developers, pharmacists, doctors, and occupational therapists all earn more than the median income.
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

19. Which of these jobs do you think would require a four-year degree? (Choose all that apply.)
   - Computer Support Specialist
   - Dental Hygienist
   - Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
   - Physical Therapist Assistant
   - Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
   - Registered Nurses
   - Industrial Machinery Mechanics
   - Database Administrator
   - Social and Community Service Manager
   - Software Developers
   - Pharmacists
   - Doctors
   - Occupational Therapists

Student Survey (cont'd.)

The last six occupations in the list—database administrators, social and community service managers, doctors, and occupational therapists and software developers—require at least a bachelor’s degree from a four-year institution.

Student Survey (cont'd.)

20. If you could take career and technical education courses in high school and graduate with an advanced diploma or an associate degree in an occupation, would you?
   - Yes
   - No
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

21. Do you think that taking career and technical education courses would prevent you from taking advanced academic courses?
- Yes
- No

If yes, why?

---

**Teacher/Administrator Survey**

The survey consists of about 33 questions and should take 15 to 20 minutes to complete. In this section, we are going to ask your opinions about CTE and about your students' career preparedness.

**22. Are you a teacher or an administrator?**
- Teacher
- Administrator

---

**Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont'd.)**

**23. What career and technical education programs do you teach in your school division?**

---

**Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont'd.)**

**24. What CTE programs have the highest enrollment in your division?**

---

**Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont'd.)**
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

25. Do you believe your school district's career and technical education program meets the local needs of the community?
   - Yes
   - No

26. Do you believe your school district's career and technical education program is aligned with the local workforce demand?
   - Yes
   - No

27. Based on the following career clusters, what do you believe are the local career needs of your community? You may choose more than one career cluster.
   - Agriculture, food, and natural resources
   - Architecture and construction
   - Arts, A/V technology, and communications
   - Business, management, and administration
   - Education and training
   - Finance
   - Government and public administration
   - Health science
   - Hospitality and tourism
   - Human services
   - Information technology
   - Law, public safety, corrections, and security
   - Manufacturing
   - Marketing, sales, and services
   - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
   - Transportation, distribution, and logistics

Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont'd.)
## Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

**28.** Does your school or local school district partner have partnerships with business/industry?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**29.** Do these partnerships WITH BUSINESS/INDUSTRY include any of the following:
- ☐ Collaborative relationships with teachers to improve the curriculum
- ☐ Work-based learning opportunities for students
- ☐ Work-site experiences for subject-matter teachers
- ☐ Grants for up-to-date equipment
- ☐ Scholarships for students
- ☐ Incentives for students to graduate from high school
- ☐ Do not know

Other (please specify)  

**30.** Does your school or local school district have partnerships with postsecondary educational institutions (two-year colleges)?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**31.** Do these partnerships with POSTSECONDARY educational institutions include any of the following:
- ☐ Collaboration with the local school district to align the high school curriculum to bridge the transition to further training/education
- ☐ Collaboration to integrate academic and technical learning in courses
- ☐ Periodic reviews of curricula to meet local labor force demands
- ☐ Do not know
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

32. Does your advisory committee periodically review these areas, and how often?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Quarterly</th>
<th>Twice a year</th>
<th>Once a year</th>
<th>Every 3 yrs</th>
<th>Every 5 yrs</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course curriculum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competencies for courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student outcomes (completion, placement, licensing rates)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To ensure programs are up-to-date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To ensure work-based learning opportunities for students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide training opportunities for educators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To create/update placement programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek community support and other resources (equipment, materials, facilities, partnerships)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*33. Do you require that your students take a career interest inventory?*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don't know
34. Do your students have clearly defined, individualized, four-year plans of study—from high school to college or licensure/certification/credentials—to reach their career goals?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

35. How often are the four-year plans reviewed with the student? (You may select more than one answer.)
- Beginning of the school year
- Each quarter
- Mid-year
- End of year
- Don't know

Other (please specify)

36. With whom are the four-year plans reviewed? (You may select more than one answer.)
- The student's parent(s)/guardian(s)
- The student
- The school counselor
- Not at all

Other (please specify)
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

*37. Does your school or local school district participate in any of the following work-related experiences?*

- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs)
- ☐ Job Shadowing
- ☐ School-based enterprise
- ☐ Apprenticeships
- ☐ Clinical experience (Health Science)
- ☐ Internships
- ☐ Cooperative education
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont’d.)**

Now let’s talk about careers and wages. Tell us your opinion about the following careers in Alabama.

*38. The median income in Alabama was $42,934 between: 2007–2011. Of these in-demand jobs in Alabama, which do you think would pay close to the median annual income? (Choose all that apply.)*

- ☐ Computer Support Specialist
- ☐ Dental Hygienist
- ☐ Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- ☐ Physical Therapist Assistant
- ☐ Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- ☐ Registered Nurses
- ☐ Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- ☐ Database Administrator
- ☐ Social and Community Service Manager
- ☐ Software Developers
- ☐ Pharmacists
- ☐ Doctors
- ☐ Occupational Therapists
Nearly half of the jobs on the list pay at or near the median income in Alabama:
— computer support specialist
— dental hygienist
— diagnostic medical sonographer
— physical therapist assistant
— radiologic technologists and technicians
— registered nurses; and
— industrial machinery mechanics.

Database administrators, social and community service managers, software developers, pharmacists, doctors, and occupational therapists all earn more than the median income.

### Teacher/Administrator Survey (cont'd.)

*39. Which of these jobs do you believe would require a four-year degree? (Choose all that apply.)

- [ ] Computer Support Specialist
- [ ] Dental Hygienist
- [ ] Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- [ ] Physical Therapist Assistant
- [ ] Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- [ ] Registered Nurses
- [ ] Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- [ ] Database Administrator
- [ ] Social and Community Service Manager
- [ ] Software Developers
- [ ] Pharmacists
- [ ] Doctors
- [ ] Occupational Therapists

The last six occupations in the list—database administrators, social and community service managers, doctors, and occupational therapists and software developers—require at least a bachelor’s degree from a four-year institution.
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

**40.** Do you believe that taking advanced academic courses would prevent students from taking career and technical education courses?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**41.** Do you think athletic/band activities prevent students from taking career and technical education courses?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**42.** If your students could take career and technical education courses in high school and graduate with industry credentials or an associate degree in an occupation, would you encourage it?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

*43. What are you most concerned about with regard to career and technical programs in Alabama?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Not at all concerned</th>
<th>Slightly concerned</th>
<th>Somewhat concerned</th>
<th>Moderately concerned</th>
<th>Extremely concerned</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program funding</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program resources</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased student enrollment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decreased student enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job placement after graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement into careers that pay a living wage or higher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding a qualified teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Survey**

This survey consists of 36 questions and should take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete. In this portion of the survey, we will be asking your opinion about career and technical education courses and your child’s career goals.
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

**44. How many children, by grade level, currently live in your household?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Pre-K</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>8th</th>
<th>9th</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**45. Do you believe academic courses prepare students for an entry-level job or a career?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How? (please specify)

**46. Do you believe career and technical education courses prepare students for an entry-level job or a career?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How? (please specify)

**47. Do you think that most careers require a degree from a four-year college?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**48. Has your child identified a career they are interested in?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

49. Does your child have a four-year plan (a plan that aligns academic and career goals with a course of study) to guide them through high school so they meet their career goals?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Parent Survey (cont'd.)

50. How often is the learning plan reviewed? (You may choose more than one answer.)
- Beginning of the school year
- Each quarter
- Mid-year
- End of the academic year
- Don't know

Parent Survey (cont'd.)

Let's look at jobs and income in Alabama. Please give us your opinion about the following careers.
51. The median income in Alabama was $42,934 between: 2007–2011. Of these in-demand jobs in Alabama, which do you think would pay close to the median annual income? (Choose all that apply.)

- Computer Support Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Database Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Software Developers
- Pharmacists
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists

Parent Survey (cont'd.)

Nearly half of the jobs on the list pay at or near the median income in Alabama:
- computer support specialist
- dental hygienist
- diagnostic medical sonographer
- physical therapist assistant
- radiologic technologists and technicians
- registered nurses; and
- industrial machinery mechanics.

Database administrators, social and community service managers, software developers, pharmacists, doctors, and occupational therapists all earn more than the median income.
## Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

### 52. Which of these jobs do you think would require a four-year degree? (Choose all that apply.)
- Computer Support Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Database Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Software Developers
- Pharmacists
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists

### Parent Survey (cont'd.)

The last six occupations in the list—database administrators, social and community service managers, doctors, and occupational therapists and software developers—require at least a bachelor's degree from a four-year institution.

### Parent Survey (cont'd.)

### 53. Does your child’s school offer career and technical education courses?
- Yes, at the school
- Yes, at a center
- No
- Don't know

### 54. What does career and technical education mean to you?
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

**55.** If your child could take career and technical education courses in high school and graduate with an industry credential or an associate degree in an occupation, would you encourage them to take the courses?
- Yes
- No

**56.** Do you think that taking advanced academic courses would prevent students from taking career and technical education courses?
- Yes
- No

**57.** Do you think that athletic/band activities would prevent students from taking career and technical education courses?
- Yes
- No

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry/Advisory Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This survey consists of 31 questions and should take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. In this portion of the survey, we are going to ask you questions about education, workforce, and career plans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**58.** Does your industry/advisory group have a partnership with a local school division?
- Yes
- No

**59.** How would you rate the level of communication between education and industry/advisory committees?
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very Good
- Excellent
### Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

**60. Does your advisory committee periodically review these areas, and how often?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Quarterly</th>
<th>Twice a year</th>
<th>Once a year</th>
<th>Every 3 yrs</th>
<th>Every 5 yrs</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course curriculum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Competencies for courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student outcomes (completion, placement, credentials)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To ensure programs are up-to-date</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To ensure work-based learning opportunities for students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide training opportunities for educators</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To create/update placement programs for students (e.g., internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seek community support and other resources (e.g., equipment, materials, facilities, partnerships)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>Option 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>61. Do you believe the school district's career and technical education program meets the local needs of the community?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. Do you believe the school district's career and technical education program is aligned with the local workforce demand?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63. Based on the following career clusters, what do you believe are the local career needs of your community?</td>
<td>Agriculture, food, and natural resources</td>
<td>Architecture and construction</td>
<td>Arts, A/V technology, and communications</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business, management, and administration</td>
<td>Education and training</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government and public administration</td>
<td>Health science</td>
<td>Hospitality and tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human services</td>
<td>Information technology</td>
<td>Law, public safety, corrections, and security</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Marketing, sales, and services</td>
<td>Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation, distribution, and logistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>64. Does your school or local school district partner have partnerships with business/industry, other than the company in which you work?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

65. Do these partnerships WITH BUSINESS/INDUSTRY include any of the following:
- Collaborative relationships with teachers to improve the curriculum
- Work-based learning opportunities for students
- Work-site experiences for subject-matter teachers
- Grants for up-to-date equipment
- Scholarships for students
- Incentives for students to graduate from high school
- Do not know

Other (please specify)

66. Does your school or local school district partner have partnerships with postsecondary educational institutions?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

All Respondents

Thank you for your patience. We have just a few more questions for you to answer!

67. Overall, how would you rate the quality of public education in Alabama?
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

68. In your opinion, is a four-year college degree necessary for a successful career?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know
## Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

### Q69. Suppose you had a child in your household. How important do you think it would be for that child to attend college?
- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

### Q70. How important do you think it would be for that child to be ready for a career upon graduation?
- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

### All Respondents (cont’d.)

### Q71. Career and technical education programs offer students the opportunity to learn a skilled profession while meeting the academic standards of all students. How important do you think it is for public schools to offer career-type programs?
- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

### Q72. How important do you think work-based learning—internships, job shadowing, clinical experiences—is to a child’s education?
- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

*73. What types of students would benefit from career and technical education programs? (Please select all that apply.)

☐ At-risk students
☐ College-bound students
☐ Students not likely to attend college
☐ Students with learning disabilities
☐ High-performing students
☐ All students

*74. Do you believe career and technical education students in Alabama can earn college credit for courses or take classes that allow them to attend college?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t know

*75. In designing their programs, how important is it for career and technical education instructors/administrators in your community to work closely with local businesses?

☐ Very important
☐ Important
☐ Not very important
☐ Not at all important
☐ Don’t know

All Respondents (cont’d.)

*76. When it comes to preparing students for COLLEGE, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

☐ Right direction
☐ Wrong direction
☐ Don’t know
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

**77.** When it comes to preparing students for CAREERS, are Alabama’s local school systems generally moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?
- Right direction
- Wrong direction
- Don’t know

**78.** Overall, how would you rate the job your local school district does in preparing students for a CAREER?
- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Below average
- Poor
- Don’t know

**79.** Overall, how would you rate the job your local school district does in preparing students for COLLEGE?
- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Below average
- Poor
- Don’t know

**80.** Is it important for Alabama schools to use more technology (such as computers, tablets, electronic smart boards, or other technological devices) in the classroom?
- Yes
- No
**Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama**

81. How would you rate career and technical student organizations in preparing students for careers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not useful</th>
<th>Somewhat useful</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
<th>Extremely useful</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECA (marketing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Business Leaders</td>
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<td>of America (FBLA)</td>
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<td>Family, Career, and</td>
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<td>Community Leaders of</td>
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<td>America (FCCLA)</td>
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<td>Future Farmers of America</td>
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<td>(FFA)</td>
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<td>HOSA (health sciences)</td>
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<td>SkillsUSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association (TSA)</td>
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Demographic Information

We are going to ask a few questions about you. This is the last part of the survey.

82. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer

83. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

84. What is the primary language spoken in your home?
- Spanish
- Korean
- French
- English
- Japanese
- Other

85. What is your age?
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

86. What is your county of residence?
   - [ ] Other (please specify)

87. How many years of education do you have?
- 8th grade
- 9th-11th grade
- High school graduate
- Business/technical school
- Some college
- Two-year college
- Four-year college
- College graduate
- Graduate school/professional school
- Don't know
Survey of Career and Technical Education in Alabama

You have reached the end of your survey!

Thanks for taking a few minutes to answer our questions. The questions you answer will tell us how you see CTE programs today, and how we can improve and create a better CTE program for all of Alabama.
Appendix C
Responses from Alabama Citizens, Question 2
“Do you think academic courses (mathematics, science, English, and social studies) prepare Alabama’s students for an entry-level job or a career?”

Responses: 643

- Those courses are necessary to communicate, but employers are looking for people who have some basic skills that are not taught in the normal H.S. curriculum.
- Teaches general knowledge and work ethic.
- Everyone needs these skills regardless of which path is taken.
- A math class that includes basic business type math is needed.
- Well rounded background.
- Often not as well as they should and students do not know how to apply math and science concepts taught as theory and not application.
- They teach students basic skills that help prepare them for whatever entry-level position they go into. For example, Math courses are a necessity for someone with a career in Customer Service. Unfortunately, most Alabama Schools tend to be behind the curve, compared to schools elsewhere. Alabama Schools seem to minimize the importance of Math, Science, English, & Social Studies. Teachers & Students seem to pay more attention to Sports & Socializing.
- If the students are going to college this prepares them for the next level. All subjects can prepare them for entry-level job or career by expanding their education and making them more knowledgeable citizens in general.
- Developing communication and problem solving skills.
- It depends on how well the subject was taught and more importantly, if the student was willing to learn it.
- In some ways. It helps develop thinking skills and retaining information.
- Basic skills everyone should know.
- Every student needs basic knowledge in all subject areas.
- Basic literacy.
- In the past, they have not. Once the CCRS are fully implemented, I feel our students will much better prepared.
- Geometry and Basic Math or Consumer Math Needs to be taught. Students need to the basics such as knowing how to measure.
- They need employability skills as well as training to specific areas.
- Yes but they have to be learned as an application where they know that it is relevant to life and their career.
- Student must have a basic education to be able to perform in any job.
- Preparing them for future applications.
- The tool that measures teacher performance (EDUcATEAlabama) is premised on a continuum that expects teachers to connect CORE content to real-world application as a sign of mastery and best practices. As the teacher grows so should student experiences.
• Basic skills are met.
• They need these classes to be successful but they must be supplemented with career and technical courses. It is not an either/or situation.
• General knowledge.
• Effective communication and math skills.
• Academic classes offer a good foundation for college or career.
• Some, not all, academic courses prepare students by giving the ability to do job skills such as math and English. Social studies may prepare them for the “outside world” but not really at all. I would like someone to explain to me how science helps prepare students if they are not going to be a science major in college.
• Our school does a great job and makes sure our kids are prepared.
• It's something used on a daily basis.
• By teaching them to problem solve
• Because if you find a great job and you work as a cashier you will know how to do math.
• Totally depends upon job or career interest!
• They don’t know how to use it.
• Basic skills of math and writing are needed.
• All students need a good base in academics.
• Just not enough...a person needs people skills and life skills that math, science, & English just don't provide.
• Student must be able to read at a text book level and have math skills to be successful at any job.
• It teaches you how to problem solve when given a set of rules or parameters with possible solutions.
• Students are not learning critical thinking skills in these academic classes. A lot of high school academic classes are being taught by worksheets without critical thinking assignments.
• Math and science are still challenging areas in our system.
• Every students needs to know how to calculate hourly wages sales taxes and how to communicate with proper English.
• Basic knowledge that all need to know.
• Literacy is the most vital skill that students must possess to be successful for entry-level jobs or careers. Mathematics is necessary for jobs and personal finances. Social Studies teaches us to be civic minded. We learn the important events of the past in order to know where we are going in the future. Science is essential for personal health, environmental protection, advances in medicine and engineering. Science and the Fine Arts help students learn to be more creative and inventive. YES... I most definitely think that academic courses prepare Alabama’s students for entry-level jobs or careers. Any person that does not believe that these core classes are important should not consider themselves an educator. This type of question is an insult to public education and to the educators that have dedicated their lives to educating our nation.
• Need hands on training.
• Need real-world experience.
• To a point. We need to have good academic skills to communicate, deal with basic accounting, record-keeping, and willingness. To enter into other people's stories to have entry-level success. Other skills include timeliness and willingness to work well with people and problems.

• Teaches basic skills and information.

• We are putting too much emphasis on higher mathematics. We need to be teaching more technical math or practical applications to math (perimeter, area, measurement, etc.). We are also lowering the standards to help students pass. We need to hold them accountable! We are dumbing it down too much.

• Fundamentals

• Students must have basic skills in order to function and communicate.

• Communication skills in writing, reading, speaking, adding, subtracting are all skills needed for an entry-level job or career.

• Improves Critical Thinking Skills.

• It can as long as it continues to build upon students skill levels.

• To a certain degree. Students must know the basics in these four areas.

• Basic skills in the core areas are necessary for any job at any level.

• Rounds out an individual’s interest, and MAY expose them to something that they didn’t know they were interested in.

• Provides background and basic information.

• Basic math computations, grammar and vocabulary skills.

• Too many required subjects, no options.

• This is a ridiculous question. Since the beginning of time... the goal of education has been to raise up an educated society. That is the strength of a democratic nation. Everyone has heard of the 3 R’s: Reading Writing and Arithmetic. The four core subjects are the basis upon which all other knowledge and skills are built. Even higher education has grasp this concept. The core is covered through Areas 1-4 before students move on to their major areas of study. I also believe that foreign language and fine arts are also extremely important to developing a well rounded citizen.

• To some degree, but fails to address soft issues, personal money management, and other business principles.

• In most cases. Many entry-level positions are job specific so some subjects may not specifically reflect the specifics.

• The material is there to teach them, they just have to learn it.

• Seriously, you are asking if a core academic education prepares students for a career...insulted by the question! Of course a core academic curriculum prepares students for a career.

• These core courses help to make students literate in their fields.

• Through vertical alignment, ongoing PD, and CCRS implementation, using daily best practices for instruction, and the use of various types of data to track individual student progress.

• the foundation for knowledge is built here.

• Students need to have job skills beyond core classes and a good work ethic to be successful.

• To a certain extent.
• I chose yes, but with reservations. I feel that if those subjects mastered by the majority of the students it would be beneficial. I don't think that is the case.

• They don't teach work ethics, but without those basic skills they wouldn't be prepared either.

• All students need a broad background.

• I believe that academic courses teach a basic knowledge of things that may be needed in careers. I don't think that the teachers relate how the skills taught can be used in a career or even some examples of the careers that may use skills learned in that particular class.

• They can provided that instruction is focused on application of skills and incorporates 21st Century Technology.

• Students generally know how to work the problems, but the application in real-life situations is not always clear to them.

• Not completely. We prepare our students for more schooling.

• Some teachers do not teach.

• Students complete a curriculum designed by the SDE and upon completing this curriculum they receive a high school diploma which opens doors or opportunity in the workforce.

• Math and English prepare students for job interviews and basic daily skills.

• Our math, science, and English courses are completely focused on the students planning to attend 4 year colleges. We don't even offer basic career math outside of Algebra except to special education students.

• I think the curriculum is excellent, however I believe there are far too few entry-level jobs available to our graduates.

• Literacy, vocabulary, context, and ability to re-learn new skills as adults.

• They do not teach the students how to apply what they have leaned. They just teach the concepts and format.

• Strong content in the areas of study.

• No specific career training.

• Although students need to be able to read and complete math in order to be ready to begin a career; they also need job skills and job training in order to enter the workforce. So academic courses only are not enough to prepare students for a job.

• Math is the foundation of most careers.

• With emphasis on the CCRS the teaching strategies should include more real-life application.

• It prepares them for the basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics.

• They must have computer skills.

• I have two children in Alabama Public Schools. One has been accepted to Auburn. I visit local schools in three counties. I feel that some public schools have advantages over others.

• Providing skills necessary to matriculate in any chosen area.

• Many students have difficulty with basic math problems.

• These courses prepare students for post-secondary education which leads to a career.

• Citizens need to know how to live, calculate, read, write and behave ethically.

• Depends on the teacher/school.
• Courses that use the CCRS framework help prepare students for careers.
• It has to be both academic and career/tech courses.
• The standards support the development of literal skills as well as thinking skills.
• I have not had a job (and I have had many jobs) that did not require mathematics, basic science, English and social studies.
• Most academic course just teach facts; no real critical thinking involved which is necessary to prepare for life.
• You need basic Math and English skills for entry-level job.
• Just basic communication.
• I believe that many of the courses offered to student's prepare them for a job or career. I do have concerns that sometimes the basic skills necessary for adulthood are overlooked because the standards for the courses do not allow for insuring that these skills are mastered.
• By providing fundamental skills.
• All jobs require reading, writing and math skills.
• If the teachers are allowed to teach the curriculum and are competent in the field then students will be ready.
• Meeting individual needs is not happening using computers.
• Students must possess the ability to speak, write, and use math in their daily lives.
• These courses teach basic skills but not always application of those skills.
• More emphasis on work related issues in the academic setting.
• IF, a student takes these courses with the rigor that they are capable of then, an only then are these courses able to prepare the student for college and career readiness.
• These courses are the foundation to getting good jobs.
• Being able to read, do simple calculations, and writing well are significant for all jobs.
• They give the child a foundation for thinking through problems and making sense of what they are reading or calculating.
• These classes give the student a good base. But need to be expanded to include real-world experiences.
• By teaching students the basic skills necessary to make them qualified to be hired.
• I do feel that a certain amount of the "cores" are essential but they alone do not prepare students to be job ready.
• By providing instruction in basic skills required to compete in the job market.
• General working knowledge.
• Need more student engagement.
• I think entry-level maybe not career.
• Some background knowledge is needed/advantageous for any career - communication skills, math skills, etc.
• Basic skills are taught.
• Greatly improved with Common Core standards.
• They prepare students for entry-level positions through rigorous standards.
• They help build a solid foundation. The stronger the math, reading, and writing skills are, the more successful the student can/will be.
• With the implementation of Alabama’s College and Career Standards, I think our students are more prepared than ever.
• There is a disconnect between the math, science, etc. taught in classrooms and what is really needed in the workplace.
• Not completely, students need the lab time and hands on experience as well.
• To a degree in general, but I think we have gaps.
• Foundation of education.
• Students need to be trained for skills as well.
• The academic demands have increased.
• Basic skills.
• Provide basic communication and problem solving skills along with critical thinking.
• They teach systems, but seldom teach practical application.
• It prepares students for college.
• Not enough practical math.
• We just scratch the surface!
• Most jobs need hands-on experience.
• Prepares economically.
• Core classes provide basic necessary skills.
• These are the foundation for any higher level education.
• Not enough real-life application of skills; skills are taught but are tested on how they work in the classroom.
• These basic courses prepare students to communicate intelligently.
• Provides students with proper writing skills, speaking skills, problem-solving skills, etc.
• We rank at the bottom of key measures in the U.S.
• You take classes that you don’t need.
• Academic Courses give what you need to know, through what ever job your getting into, if its forensics, or construction, etc.
• They are everyday things that you experience in life or on the job.
• Because you don’t need certain courses in order to get a job.
• Mainly no things we will use in life.
• Some classes don’t have nothing to do with what you want to have a career in.
• Have of the stuff we do in school we wont use in the future.
• It gives students the knowledge to help prepare for the big world.
• It helps us with common sense smarts.

• Academics without career readiness is not ideal.

• If you don’t have basic skills in all of the above you are not marketable as a job candidate. High School graduation and the grades earned show the type of person you are. Do you persevere in the face of difficulty? Can you reason? Can you critically think? All these things are important for any job or career.

• By given them the basic skills they need to function in society.

• By the children being in the no child left behind program, some children that are at a higher education range then others do not have the advanced curriculum that is needed, making them fall behind.

• It helps you socialize and calculate material.

• The students require this for there career.

• I do believe that these academic courses prepare us for an entry-level job but some of the kids want a higher ranking job and need more advanced skills.

• It teaches students things they need to know in the real world.

• Yes because most of the top level jobs require so mastery in those areas.

• Not all jobs need the core academic courses.

• You use skills learned in these classes in everyday life.

• Because they will at least know what to do.

• They allow us to see what real jobs require.

• Education is important.

• Teaches the students what the need to know for the job.

• Teaches the students the necessary things to know to maintain a healthy job to support their finical burdens.

• There are things that are so useless for students.

• I think that these courses prepare you for an entry-level job if you have the right teachers.

• These courses give them the basic information they need to be will informed on the subjects of most careers.

• They give little to no real word experience, they don’t teach you how to do your taxes, finance a car, set up a bank account, etc.

• Classes are vague, not in depth enough.

• It teaches memorization and not real problem solving skills.

• No real-world application in the curriculum.

• You have to know math to solve problems.

• Yes, all of these academic courses help prepare children for a career, EXCEPT for Social Studies. Learning Social Studies is just busy-work for the children. Children really do not need to know how old Christopher Columbus was when he said the ocean in 1492... Social Studies gives off good information, but you won’t really apply it in life and will not remember the Social Studies they learned or apply it anywhere, really.

• Depend on stuff.
• They teach us skills and knowledge to get us ready for the future.
• Some of these classes don’t help students.
• The courses give a basic understanding of the skills needed to be a decent worker in an entry-level job.
• The classes are not challenging enough.
• They educate us for the future.
• To prepare them for college.
• Because Math, Science, English, and Social Studies is used in the real world.
• They help train people in specific courses.
• To learn.
• Not ALL students.
• It makes you smarter.
• Those are the main subjects that need to be taken.
• If you have the right teachers it can work.
• Most classes don’t help with what we need.
• They teach the student the basics of careers.
• I will not need to know that d=(x2-x1)2+(y2-y1)2.
• It doesn’t really teach us how to live in the real world. Sure it may get us a job to have some education in math, science, and English, but what good is it if we don’t know how to live in the world of work.
• They give us knowledge.
• Prepare us.
• Because there are computers to do math for us.
• These subjects help you to become successful in the future.
• Students are preparing now for the future and what they want to do with their lives.
• Although it helps up in the future, it doesn’t really prepare us for the real life world.
• Some things we learn in common core classes aren’t used in our jobs.
• It covers the main job needs.
• Math is essential in real-world problems.
• Basic skill knowledge.
• Class room work doesn’t make students think.
• High thinking jobs to communicate with other countries.
• Teaches good communication skills and understanding
• I’m sure it prepares students for college, but having a skill has proven in recent years to be a better way to develop a career.
• Regular schools seem to just pass the students and are not able to do regular or traditional math.
• Students are not given hand-on, real life applications of the math and science learned in elementary and middle school. Also, the course matter seems to merely skim the surface of basic knowledge in the subjects and fails to obtain deep interest or curiosity from students.

• Math and Science for skills - English for communication.

• The new level of rigor, team work, and thinking process allow students to think about how to get the answer and not just memorize a process.

• Provides necessary basics for entry-level that are typically used on-the-job.

• Support CCRS.

• Our workforce & citizens need basic skills for every day life, much less jobs.

• Provides foundational knowledge on which to build.

• The more rounded the person's background prepares them for different options.

• Not all students excel in core classes but can do well in a trade.

• They are writing more & more essays instead of being able to count money, make change.

• Need the basics not confusing advanced terminology.

• Studies should be more applicable to real world. Also, too focused on graduation rates and not developing students.

• High school is just basic......everyone needs more education.

• Their supposed abilities are not supported by the number requiring remedial education - especially in math.

• Somewhat. However, there is so much more we could do to prepare our students for “their” future.

• All education prepares them....for the path THEY chose.

• Foundation for communication & technical skillsThey have the basic skills necessary to enter the entry-level markets.

• You learn how to read and interpret and use it on daily tasks at work.

• Should help with entry-level job and entry to higher education.

• Because these are core subjects that the students need.

• Need more basic living courses.

• Students need to be able to speak and write correctly, English, Social Studies, and Science classes help student to do that. Math speaks for itself everyone needs math skills for everyday living.

• They give the student the basic skills to express themselves, solve low-level math problems, & have a basic world view.

• Basic skills in writing, math, problem solving.

• More time needs spent teaching in effective ways that our children will actively respond to.

• Not enough experience in real life situations.

• I think it gives a foundation, but not preparation.

• Students need all if the above.

• It does not matter what you teach if you pass a student anyway regardless if they fail or not.

• No “real-world” application or connection.
• Much better than common core would. I have higher hopes than a factory job for my children.
• I am graduated of 1995 from high school, and the math wasn't enough to help me when I finally enter college.
• Everyone must learn the basics.
• Not job specific enough.
• Provide basic understanding.
• Well taught and well designed academic courses provide basics of math, English, and other fundamental knowledge that are necessary for most entry-level jobs. Academic courses that are not well designed and taught will not prepare students for jobs or a career.
• They could if children all came with the same basic skills in kindergarten.
• By teaching them to calculate, read and reason.
• They have to learn basic knowledge.
• I don't think the work is vigorous enough.
• Some students need trade skills to make it in our world.
• I am referring to those that complete the 12th grade.
• They are the foundations of education. We all need to master them on a certain level.
• Basics in a job.
• The basics for a citizen in this country.
• They need to address English and math areas.
• These courses are aimed at college bound students.
• One must also have a grasp on today’s technology and be prepared with the soft skills needed to begin a career in today’s market.
• Writing and communication skills are poor.
• You learn how to talk to customers in the right language.
• Qualified teachers is a start.
• As a college professor, most students from Alabama’s high schools are unable to write on an elementary level.
• Smaller county schools can’t compete with some larger schools or private schools.
• Students need more hands on, specific training to prepare for a job or career.
• Increases communicative abilities and interpersonal relationships.
• Alabama coursework is adequate for entry-level jobs.
• This is only the basics in these fields -HS diploma is only good for trades now.
• For some it does and others it doesn’t.
• Children not required to comprehend what they are studying.
• These courses give the fundamentals that can be built upon.
• They provide the groundwork that allows higher level of training.
• It gives them the foundation to achieve their future endeavors.
• But I feel they should be allowed to chose the type of math they take.
• Somewhat but not fully.
• Basic info needed in almost any job.
• Many students are barely passing the graduation exams, so I don't think the classes are preparing students for a career.
• Too many come out of school unable to read or do basic math problems.
• Basic subjects do prepare someone to work at a beginning work place that will pay minimum wage and will be looking for a high school graduate.
• The classes are too advanced and students are giving up.
• If students have an academic knowledge of subject areas, they are able to communicate ideas and have a general understanding of how to function in different environments. Students who know about history understand how situations can play out, English courses help build comprehension and analysis of job materials, Math is a given that everyone needs, and science teaches critical thinking.
• Courses are not preparing students for every day living.
• Common Core is NOT preparing students. It is confusing them.
• This is knowledge you people need in life to be smart & a productive part of society.
• I think we go wide instead of deep with what we teach and expect them to learn. Therefor they don't really KNOW the material as well.
• Because 75% of the courses I studied in HS no way relate to the job I have today.
• More jobs require “common sense” and practical applications.
• Students should have the basic academic knowledge when they graduate from school.
• These are the essential skills needed for knowledge based economy.
• I think the advanced courses help but the general courses are not a good prep for a career.
• Children need to be taught more than just how to take standardized tests
• Schools are nothing but K-12 day care.
• Academic skills are necessary for entry-level jobs/careers.
• They are not taught the concept of how and why of certain processes in mathematics. they are taught the bare minimum.
• Broad based education.
• Children can add but they cannot critically think.
• Not enough or high enough expectations for students to do the work.
• I don't think the parents support their children enough to help them prepare for a job or career.
• They are the basics for reasoning in a job.
• There is rigor now.
• Kids come out of high schools unprepared for jobs.
• They need to know these things just to get by in life.
• All students need the basics.
• Those are the core subjects that you’ll need in everyday life.
• To much teaching the test, rather than practical learning.
• Communication and basic math are needed.
• Academic skills are very needed in the workplace, especially Math and English skills.
• By allowing them to the basic skills in performing entry-level positions. If you can not speak or write properly, it is not likely that you will achieve an entry-level white collar position.
• Worked for everyone I know. Basic math and communication skills are helpful if not required in every job. All academic courses require ability to comprehend, study, work independently, memorize and retain information.
• The fundamentals of learning are always necessary.
• The level of education for a high school graduate is much lower than the level needed for entry-level college courses.
• I believe the teachers could use more help or smaller classes.
• English-yes... All other courses may not be remembered.
• These classes teach critical thinking, writing, and quantitative skills.
• They are basic skills needed for every day life.
• These are all basics in most job settings.
• Knowing fundamentals is key for any learning. Showing that you can master this material shows potential employers of your learning capabilities.
• They are a necessity to any form of gainful employment.
• More so the Math and English skills. The English courses help with communication skills and basic understanding of what the job entails.
• Courses need to directly tie to the industries in the area of the school.
• I have been out of school for many years and have never used social studies or science. Math and English however I use.
• In order to be a well rounded educated student, the basic courses are needed.
• Most schools offer AP courses and extensive math and science courses that did a wonderful job preparing me and my sons. The challenge is getting the children to take and absorb the courses. Most are so scared of failure or hard work that they do not even try. The schools offer the courses in most locations that if properly applied will help one succeed.
• To the extent that the required core does at 4yr universities.
• If they take advantage of it and have committed teachers.
• These are basic fundamentals of any career.
• Not enough emphasis on practical aspects.
• Some schools are not equipped with educators that are able to teach children of all academic levels.
• They are passed just to get them out of the class and grade.
• A general understanding of math, science and social studies makes a more well-rounded person. A firm understanding of English makes everyone a better communicator, which is critical to professional success.
• Skills needed for success at work.
• In many rural areas the students can not even read, much less speak coherently. There needs to be a huge push to vocational education.
• Math and English seem to be the only subjects the public schools focus on. Social studies, history, science etc. tend to be more like extra curricular activities.
• I think our math and science needs more rigor to be up to worldwide standards.
• The new way of learning math is a complete joke, social studies is non existent in elementary/ middle school.
• This Common Core math is pointless, and only confuses the kids. Math at an elementary level, should be straight forward, 1+1=2.
• Everything is geared for testing purposes.
• The BOE has taken away basic learning skills in math by implementing, the college and career readiness program. Children need basic memorization and be able to do basic math without having to …
• I’m seeing too many “graduates” that can’t read or speak properly.
• At the minimum.
• I think it provides them with the skills to write and communicate effectively. I also believe the math classes help with reasoning as well as money management.
• Too low of a requirement to graduate for basic competency.
• I feel academic courses prepare students for a college education.
• Lee High School, teachers gave up on the students a long time ago.
• Mostly depends on their job choice as to which helps them the most.
• Without these we would be uneducated and couldn’t do anything. You need the basics!
• The system is too “dumbed down.” Additional programs for the “gifted” students are not offered in school. If a parent wants this, they have to go outside of the school system to provide this for their kids. Those who could excel are not offered that opportunity because of the focus on standardized testing.
• Because Alabama is good at just entry-level.
• Everyone one needs “general” knowledge in all subject matter.
• I’ve seen students graduate high school and fail placement tests for basic subjects in college. I’ve seen cashiers at Walmart who have graduated not be able to count back change. This is not adequate.
• You have “dumbed” down the courses so much that students graduating from high school can barely spell their names!
• Mathematics and Science does not give a good start to college level Physic courses; English classes does not cover business and technical writing.
• I did very well at an Alabama school, but was not prepared for college.
• You use common core standards which don’t do anything but get children ready to memorize for tests not learn.
• Kids graduating do not know basic math, money skills/management, basic writing and spelling. Skills every person needs and uses in everyday life.
• Most kids working as cashiers, can’t make proper change without cash register.
• Common Core is a disgrace on this state and prepares kids for nothing but politically correct ignorance.
• There’s nothing advance about these courses. My kids are in private school.
• You need to talk and add.
• But they need more.
• The focus is on curriculum not the individual students needs.
• I wish there were a middle answer here. In some cases they do help provide the basics for an entry-level job. The problem is, is that most students I see lack the common sense skills to do anything with it. Incorporating the skills needed in a grounded and relatable way would probably do more good than straight out math problems or early English lit classes.
• Should be free of religious content.
• The teachers are inadequate and the education system is a joke!
• These are basics I feel every child needs to know, they are used as a foundation for career and technical work, but they don’t use teach students how to use this knowledge in a work place setting.
• Basic knowledge.
• Public education teaches to the “no child left behind” policy
• Everyone needs basic education (math, science, etc…).
• They aren’t prepared.
• Too many facts and not enough critical thinking/problem solving.
• They help students with a well-rounded knowledge base.
• Core content is a necessary component and must be taught so students can apply the concepts.
• Social studies in Alabama tend to be one sided to favor minority persons.
• In todays job market unless you have a masters you will have to work in a trade. Not everyone can afford college.
• Not at the level they are taught.
• If students study and apply their knowledge, they should be ready for entry-level jobs and careers.
• Learning.
• In our school system we do not have teachers that stay in the class for a whole year they find other jobs and leave, so our children are with out teachers. (Pike County)
• Math science and the ability to read and write effectively are crucial in most careers and trades.
• They need to know how to read and write correctly. People also need basic math skills to complete any job.
• It give them the edge over student taking the regular courses.
• More real-world applications need to be in the classroom.
• Yes. Academic courses teach students basic principles. Two examples are solving mathematical equations and writing complete sentences. Social studies teaches civics and how to be a model citizen.
• Students graduating with honors from Alabama high schools can’t pass entry-level courses in college. Neither can these students walk in to any office and use the most basic software.
• Need more hands on.
• Allowing for re takes on failed test do nothing to prepare students for success. There are a large number of students needing credit recovery classes because they failed in the classroom setting.
• You don’t need any of these to flip burgers.
• No rigor.
• Basic knowledge, citizenship - but other courses are needed.
• Have no relevance to real life work.
• In regular public schools they are not advancing the teachings. They only teach basics.
• English helps communication. The others no; its all theoretical. Teachers need more flexibility and funding to provide real, applicable lessons. The 4x4 curriculum severely limits what schools can offer; especially smaller rural schools.
• Core learning.
• Workers need to read, work simple arithmetic, and have some knowledge of the world they live in.
• Test teaching, not real learning.
• Kids have to master the basic skills to live.
• Career training is a must.
• They prepare students if they are taught properly. My children are having a hard time learning because their teachers are not utilizing classroom time for teaching, they are to busy socializing.
• Not enough technology available in all schools.
• All students do not make academic progress at a level high enough to be prepared. Some only “pass” with a D. that is not enough to be knowledgable.
• Provides those basic skills.
• It depends on the job … most important to teach critical thinking … internet is …
• abundant knowledge source for those who want to learn.
• Need more science/math courses.
• Not these alone, but in conjunction with other classes, yes, and it also depends on the chosen career path of an individual. A welder wouldn’t necessarily need history to be successful.
• Public education in AL is severely underfunded. As a result, AL children continue to fall further and further behind the rest of the Nation.
• Must communicate.
• Use of English, reading ability, arithmetic ability.
• No matter what profession, career, or furthering yourself as a student, everyone needs to be able to communicate. Everyone needs math.
• While it is necessary, they need job skills.
• With the high standards set by the state these courses should.
• It will difficult to be successful in the 21st century without academic skills. Furthermore, the thinking skills and social skills taught through academics are imperative.
• Provides basic skills needed…
• You are using common core fiasco—draw 18 circles to find out how many units it takes to get to 90—do you not use multiplication tables?

• They Provide the basic tools to start in an entry-level job or career. Usually more training will be needed, but it is hard to succeed without the basics, especially rudimentary math and communication skills.

• It depends on the level of class. If it is an advanced or college prep, yes it prepares students. If it is a regular class - I do not think that all students always receives what they need to be prepared for an entry-level job. Some of these may be due to the student not be cooperative and another reason may be because a student can not be taught properly because the teacher is having to deal with discipline problems or help students that are struggling and should have been held back.

• More specific trades need to be learned to better prepare entry into the workforce straight from high school.

• There is a real split based on race and class.

• I think they provide a valuable baseline knowledge depending on the career the student pursues.

• I think there are too many skills that are not necessary for entry-level jobs.

• Kids learn basic skills.

• In my opinion, you need math skills, English skills, and knowledge of science and social studies regardless of the profession.

• Courses provide a base of understanding on which to build job skills.

• Basic math and grammar.

• Mainly limited to low paying jobs with little chance for advancement.

• Necessary basics.

• Even if they aren’t learning job-specific skills, it helps them develop a passion and become more well-rounded.

• Not strong enough.

• Without these “tools” our young people have difficulty relating to technical issues or being innovative. Our society requires a technology change about every 3-5 year. The rate all around the globe is similar and closing in on the US. In order for us to lead the world and ensure its growth under democracy, we must be equipped to meet this technological challenge.

• We need to focus on basic academic skills such as: reading for information, basic math, etc.

• Some careers do not need some of the academic courses.

• It’s high school.

• I believe in today’s world entry-level positions require even more.

• Some students are prepared but many are not.

• The same way they prepared others before them.

• Because they are used in higher paying jobs more often.

• Basic reading, writing and math skills essential to most any job.

• Math and English help students stay even in a very competitive jobs market. Science and Social Studies give them an edge also, but math and English are essential to master.

• The basics of math and language arts is a must for everyone.
• Students are not given enough exposure to basic consumer math, like house hold budgeting, checkbook, savings.
• Many students are unable to write or speak in a grammatically correct manner.
• Everything depends on the funding level where students attend school.
• Each are essential to almost every career in society.
• Don't teach students how to think.
• Knowledge is power.
• All students have at least a basic knowledge if they pass the graduation exam.
• Every academic subject benefits the presentation, confidents, and social skills needed to transition into the work force.
• Those are the basic courses needed for any career.
• If they are properly taught to engage their minds in a variety of activities with attention to how those activities interact. Facts and acquaintance with subject matter field is also important.
• Everyone must know how to read and the basics of mathematics and algebra. Everyone should have background knowledge in science and social studies to be basically educated. Basic education is required for earning a living which everyone must do to survive.
• A great beginning is support, “uplift” and encouragement from each and every person that she/he may come in contact with. We adults must love our young people and nurture until it hurts.
• If students take full advantage and apply themselves, yes.
• Testing requirements prevent teachers from teaching more important skills. plus all children do not plan on attending college. We must expand and fund career tech programs.
• Most entry-level job requires some degree of understanding of all of these subject areas
• Students need these basics for almost any entry-level job. The curriculum should be more difficult; however, we have lowered our standards too much.
• ONLY as a base to other learning...the broader knowledge in a variety of fields opens more doors.
• These are basic skills.
• Yes, feel that courses are the foundation upon which you build successful career.
• They do not teach soft skills...
• These courses teach students how to think. Critical thinking is vital.
• FOR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION PURPOSES.
• Have basic skills helps everyone in their jobs.
• Provides basic knowledge in subject matter that can be useful in the workforce.
• Academic courses increase the potential for thinking, creating and learning by utilizing abstract as well as concrete exercises that offer frameworks and tools with which to organize, access and utilize experience/knowledge. They provide ways to access thought/action patterns that increase learning potential and ability. They also provide access to ways of thinking and doing, not to mention insight into how knowledge was explored and gained over time.
• Had 3 kids that came out of HS very unprepared.
• Kids are not taught how to use this in application.
Students need those basic courses to function at an entry-level job. Such as speaking correctly, knowing how to add and subtract, social studies so they can just render intelligent conversations.

They teach skills needed to be able to think logically and do basic problem solving.

Too many remedial classes required.

Without these basics no further training is going to help advancement.

**THESE ARE THE BASIS NECESSITIES.**

These courses are basic knowledge needed to function in our culture.

They work along with the Career/Tech classes to prepare the students.

For any entry-level job you will use basic Math and English.

They only prepare students to take standardized test. Nobody learns to think any more.

I feel that after two years of math, science, English and social studies will give a student the basics. After that the student need to develop skills in a trade as a hand on course.

Ability to read, write, calculate are necessary in any job. Additionally, knowing the context of the present by understanding the past is crucial as well.

Students need to read and write and be able to at least know basic mathematics which are essential for everyday life.

Most entry-level positions entail some customer service so English is important. Many entry-level jobs also use mathematics in fast foods or in a warehouse.

They do not prepare students with job specific skills.

It depends on the individual student and his career interest.

Students have some skills but industry says that students are not prepared for the work force.

The core classes do not include enough of real-life examples in activities.

You need these skills for every day life.

Math is a given, however science, English and social studies better prepare our students more for advanced levels of education. I have a 4th yr college and a high school senior and I feel that my high school senior has been prepared for an entry-level career. Although, we are preparing our hs senior for college.

More computer skills & on hands training is needed.

People need general knowledge.

By developing their knowledge set and thinking ability.

They are not held accountable for learning the work.

These provide the basic skills and knowledge needed to function in today’s job market and society.

These are skills everyone needs for day to day activities, work, communications, etc.

They teach students where and how to find answers as well as introduce them to bigger ideas.

These foundation courses prepare them to be literate, thinking citizens.

The future is in technology.

Teaching basic communication skills and technical know-how.

We need to add back the vocational ed we use to have
• Work ethic
• Each of the above had some substance for economic, social justice and main stays of life experiences.
• No soft skills, critical thinking skills, financial management.
• The core academic teachers do not connect the relationship between the core academic knowledge base and employment skills
• Without stressing math and English basics, the entry-level employee appears illiterate in speech and writing and money issues.
• Depending on the job, Math and English skills are helpful.
• These are the basics and essential to any person who seeks to work in any capacity.
• You need these courses for what ever you choose to make a career
• Schools in the black belt area of the State are in poor shape and do not have the proper resources.
• These classes are necessary if the student is considering that field as a career. Also these classes good to have at least the basic knowledge of each subject. I feel it will be used someway in life.
• Basic knowledge we all need.
• I think these courses help prepare students who are able to put them all together. Some students may not be able to do that.
• Courses make them literate.
• The basics are extremely necessary. These subjects are used, directly or indirectly, on a daily basis on the job, whether folks realize it or not.
• Academic courses are necessary and valuable, but a typical curriculum does not adequately prepare the average students to solve problems independently in the real world, and it does not teach them well enough how to interact and get along with other people.
• All are necessary to succeed.
• Helps with analytical thinking; problem solving.
• Yes, but in Bullock County I’m not really learning anything!
• Students pass these courses illiterate, not versed in science, ignorant of other cultures, and innumerate
• In a way it does but in bullock county I don’t learn anything.
• In Union Springs the school system does not prepare us very well.
• Everyone needs a basic knowledge to be culturally literate.
• Basic knowledge is necessary for any endeavor.
• Most kids I see today lack the English, math and skill.
• There should be some practical hands-on type training.
• The economy is changing. We should teach children about sustainable aquaculture and efficient shelters.
• Math and Science give tools used in making wise decisions.
• Basic math & English are required for any job.
• I don’t think the quality of the average public school class is up to par excluding advanced curricula.
• These courses life are the basis of entry into.
• There are many types of entry-level jobs, some not requiring technical skills, but almost all requiring basic knowledge that can be attained from those academic courses.
• Basic academic courses are integral to any job or career.
• Yes, these subjects are basic Knowledge for today work force.
• Everyone needs to be able to communicate and have some basic math skills to be able to count earnings.
• These subjects are the 1st step in preparing for any job.
• Critical thinking, decision making, creativity.
• Academic core is a required foundation of success.
• In today’s world I think training needs to be more job specific.
• Alabama student should learn. Reading, Writing & arithmetic.
• Not every child needs to be on the academic track for a career. This is where CTE would be beneficial.
• I consider these subjects as basic education needed to get an entry-level job.
• Basic skills only.
• Broad education is necessary for better jobs.
• All jobs require some type of math. You have to communicate with others.
• Although useful knowledge to have, it’s the technical courses that really prepare a student for an entry-level job.
• Industries need workers with math and science understanding and in a global economy we must have workers with knowledge of history and geography and good English skills. Without these we are an embarrassment to the rest of the world’s better prepared workers.
• Academic courses teach students general knowledge and "how" to think; i.e., critical thinking skills.
• Need more trades taught.
• Basic skills development. They are the foundation of personal development in analysis and problem solving encountered in jobs and everyday life.
• Life is centered around these; entry-level jobs r farther advanced now. I fully expect very soon a hs diploma will not qualify a person for any entry-level job.
• But not at the levels offered to most students in AL.
• Basic fundamental foundations.
• These academic courses prepare the students with the necessary basic skills.
• Cognitive thinking skills are essential for jobs for making essential decisions.
• They attempt to train the student but does not go far enough.
• By learning how to think critically and communicate effectively
• There should be more skill based preparation for students who are either financially unable or do not meet the grade criteria for college grants.

• These are the foundations which must be sound if one hopes to enter college and succeed.

• Some programs do, but the State can definitely do better in Math and Science.

• Too narrow in scope.

• They do if the student successfully completes the class.

• We use them every day of our life.

• To have a basic knowledge of math for sales jobs, to be well spoken is always a plus, to have some knowledge of our social history is preparation for working with others, and science is the basis for medical, environmental jobs.

• They do if they are combined with technical courses as well.

• They help to make you a more well-rounded individual.

• Teaches the student to be well rounded and they need these to be able to further their career.

• Because if the children doesn’t have the basics they will be left behind.

• Everyone needs a basic academic education to be successful in a job or otherwise in life.

• I think the Common Core has caused gaps in our students’ learning and they will be ill-prepared for career or college.

• Make them learn basic mathematics and English.

• These courses are need greatly in a lot of fields for employment!

• You need these for employment. You use them.

• Academic courses are important. these are must haves.

• These courses not only provide knowledge but also give opportunity for critical thinking.

• This question is a bit confusing. While more entry-level jobs only require basic reading and math skill, these type jobs are not considered a career.

• Schools are very unevenly funded.

• It is all part of day to day life in the workforce.

• Alabama needs to improve ALL education courses provided to its citizens.

• Helps students how to be students.

• Standards are too low (weak).

• These are the basics, what other technologies are built on.

• This knowledge is basic to any educated person regardless of their career choices.

• I believe if the students were taught properly these courses would benefit or aid them for entry-level jobs. I have seen first hand, in Sumter County, of the ineffective method of teaching.

• Everyone needs basic skills.

• If well taught, learned and put to use.

• It depends on the job.

• These are basic courses to all of life, teaching students to think logically, to analyze, to understand the natural world in which they live and show them how to use it, how to communicate with each other in a specific and accurate manner and how to express themselves more fully, and how to
understand other peoples and in doing so to better understand themselves and those closest to them. Not only are these basic, they are essential!

- Academic courses nurture fundamental skills—advanced writing and reading ability, mathematical ability, and critical thinking skills—that are essential for many careers.

- Everyone needs a basic knowledge base. How to write and speak correctly is very important. Understanding where we come from in our history is valuable and understanding the world around us is needed.

- We have children who have been in the system, who do not have a clue on how to do an interview, how to dress, or even how to prepare a budget or keep a check book. These kids are important and the education system is equipped to handle it. Need a program that will address issues like this for these kids.

- They do not give the child enough training.

- Only a well-rounded individual, with the ability to think clearly, will succeed long-term.

- Courses are inadequate and spending is too low.

- The arts and sciences are vital in the formation of the whole person and to make one a generative citizen who can understand and work for the common good.

- Everyone MUST be able to communicate, the academic courses are NECESSARY.

- Depends on what level you are talking about, basics of course, but not everyone needs calculus to do their job.

- There is a difference between educated & ignorant.

- Adequate

- Academic courses are part of the equation but more is needed.

- They certainly help, but they are not enough.

- Each one of these subjects play an important role in our careers base on job profession, math is use for counting money, measurements time, percentage etc, we need English for writing using proper grammar, and social studies help us in military, and everyday surrounding & much more.

- Different occupations require various levels of knowledge in the above stated subjects.

- All four core academic subjects are interwoven into everyday life and provide a base level for discussion and social intercourse with others.

- Without these “tools” students are ill prepared to take advantage of opportunities.

- They teach students how to think, and to evaluate the world around them—it’s crucial skills for any job.

- UNTIL Common Core came along.. now .. no.

- They help to produce a well-rounded human.

- Certain academic courses can enhance a student skill and knowledge for an entry-level job or career.

- If you cannot learn the process of thinking/learning, you cannot follow directions.

- Everyone needs basic knowledge to function at a productive level.

- It’s the basics of human understanding and thought.

- Provides the base, from which almost all other learning becomes possible.
• Communications and analytical skills are key to success in any field.
• It will for certain kinds of jobs.
• Basic math skills are lacking High School Graduates.
• Not one social studies class teaches you how to do business with your local, state, and federal government (buying car tags, paying taxes) and not one math class teaches you how to do something as simple as write a check.
• The question assumes the word “should” before “prepare” doesn’t it? I think the courses should prepare students for a job. how well they do, I don’t know.
• All these courses are for basic knowledge and necessary for the high-tech age.
• Teaches them critical thinking skills.
• Provide basic skills and knowledge needed to get started.
• There should be a mix of academic and technical courses.
• Overall knowledge.
• Teaches critical thinking.
• I still use everyone of those skills in one way or another still.
• Confusingly worded. If you mean “Do these courses prepare a HS student to start a Job” then NO. They do prepare a HS student to get a degree from a University or Jr. College and that DOES prepare them to start a career.
• Communication skills, conflict resolution & problems analysis.
• I don’t know; I’m not familiar with the courses.
• Employees must be able to read and communicate well and they need to be able to do basic math in order to do today’s jobs.
• Entry-level jobs only require this level of education.
• There aren’t many entry-level jobs that require basic academics but no hands-on, technical skills.
• Half of the students that graduate are college/career ready.
• These are important, but much more is needed.
• If it is incorporated with a Career Tech Class.
• Need more hands on training to prepare students.
• Students should have a well-rounded education to be able to compete in the workforce.
• Prior knowledge in these areas help with communication skills needed for any job.
• I feel it provides students with common knowledge required for everyday living and also gives them discipline with deadlines and schedules.
• Students should be able to use proper grammar and compute basic Math functions.
• But not completely.
• Many students need hands on training and have difficulty connecting core subjects to real work.
Appendix D
Responses from Alabama Citizens, Question 3
“Do you think career and technical education courses prepare Alabama’s students for an entry-level job or a career?”

Responses: 643

- Entry-level non-professional jobs in industry will be what most H.S. graduates will be seeking. Industrial employers need employees with skills taught in tech ed because they need less training in order to become productive.
- Teach life skills.
- Provides specific skills.
- Computer skills.
- They help prepare them by teaching job skills.
- Survey assumes there is no middle ground. Some programs do a good job of preparing students for the next level be it work, two year or four year post secondary education. Other programs are pitiful and should be eliminated. While most fall somewhere in the middle ground.
- By teaching industry standards.
- Technical Education is great for giving students hands-on experience in their chosen career field. Students that are planning on going to College can use Technical School as a way to prepare them for whatever career field they plan to go into. Many Technical School Courses offer certifications that make it easier to get a better paying job. Courses that offer certifications are great for all Students, but they are perfect for Students that are not prepared for & do not plan to go to College.
- This needs to be expanded but the courses we have now give them experience but they need more hands on experience for entry-level.
- Depends on how specific the job is. Career tech covers a very broad range of information. When kids finish, it seems they are a jack of all trades, master of none.
- Provides work experience, team building, work ethics, and applied experiences
- Specific skills.
- These are specialized courses, so they provide more info than entry-level.
- Training in the actual tasks they will perform on the job.
- These classes focus on specific and general skills like teamwork and problem solving.
- Specialized training.
- CT teachers are very specific with skills-based teaching.
- Teaches SKILLS.
- Career and technical education courses help students to make decisions about the career they wish to pursue and the education needed to attain their goals.
- Prepares them for the workforce.
- Career and technical education applies the core subject content to meaningful project based learning.
- Not all students are college bound, yet we treat them all as if they are.
- These classes teach job skills that re necessary for many entry-level jobs.
- Real- world learning and application.
• Hands on application.
• CareerTech classes give a more specialized foundation and possible advanced training in a career field whether it be for a student on the college or direct to work path.
• Perhaps the courses prepare students better for the real world than academic courses do.
• Our system has no c&t school and our programs are super lacking other systems could answer a yes but not my particular system.
• In most career and technical any extra training is a great benefit.
• Because some/most technical education courses are “HANDS ON. GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY” doing actual PHYSICAL types of jobs. Knowing computers are taking over most jobs, the MAINTENANCE, and SWEAT all of the computer world to maintain and stay afloat, are as IMPORTANT. Times have changed. People/kids/students/HUMANS, are more LAZY. Always searching for an easier way.
• By helping them to work well with others.
• By teaching them specific skills for specific fields.
• Teaches them hands on skills that a book can’t. Prepares students with training they will need to carry on and meet career goals.

Skills
Skills are relevant in the workplace.
• I have seen first hand how Technical ed prepares student for careers.
• Worked for me several years ago.
• It gives them an actual skill to use in the workforce.
• Most students will need more training after high school.
• It builds confidence and a knowledge base to make you more attractive to employers.
• Students utilize technology and critical thinking skills.
• Students have the necessary skills that most entry-level jobs require.
• Career tech courses are specifically focused on career areas and as such will provide better experience and know-how for an entry-level job. In my lifetime, I have come to realize that students that learn a specifically focused skill can earn as much or more than those individuals with two or more degrees dependent on location, etc.
• Sometimes
• They are improving, but there is still more investment and upgrading needed to provide better experience to students for these fields.
• These courses teach basic skills needed for these jobs.
• Providing hands-on experiences to apply knowledge from academic courses.
• These courses prepare students for the next level but more classes need to be offered. Technology constantly change and these courses need to change as well.
• Must have academics with it.
• Offers real-world experiences.
• Again, yes, now more specific skills like computer or the job skills need to be taught for some jobs.
• Through both class work and practical, hands-on experience.
• For the same reasons as the academic courses, we are not holding them to a high enough standard.

• Specialize

• Depending on the job or career, it provides students with the knowledge they need to begin or at least be ready for training.

• By allowing students to practice skills hands-on.

• Real-world Applications.

• It gives them real-world applications.

• The majority of consistent jobs which offer decent pay are careers which are tech related.

• If well taught by the instructor and well learned by the student, CTE courses do, indeed, prepare students for entry-level jobs.

• Provides hands on and teaches needed skills.

• Basic accounting procedures, etc.

• When available, offer hands on and practical experiences to students.

• Employability skills are embedded into the curriculum of all CTE courses.

• Provides students with specific training.

• In most cases. Many entry-level positions are job specific so some subjects may not specifically reflect the specifics.

• Not enough available.

• Program instruction is not aligned with entry-level skills and teachers are not held accountable for valid outcomes. The variety of skills needed generally require the individual employers to provide on the job training to meet their specific needs.

• Teachers don’t change with career improvements and only teach what they know. These teachers need to revamp class every three years.

• Students can graduate ready for a career of their choice.

• It gives them hands on practical application for a future career.

• Students have limited opportunities at my school to truly develop skills where they are interested in order to prepare for their chosen career field.

• Hands on practice and application of learned skills.

• Again, yes with reservations.

• If they can learn a trade in high school then they would be ready for an entry-level position.

• When properly executed, these courses prepare our students for entry-level jobs or careers.

• CTE courses equip students with a set of skills. Students are trained to use the skills learned in a relevant career field.

• Not like they should. The new programs are focusing on jobs that require additional school after graduation before they can start working.

• Most are very hands-on.

• Courses have been cut and have discriminated against special educations students who need more technical education.

• By getting hands-on training.
• These students complete a curriculum designed to master a skill which leads to a career in the workplace.
• Students are given hands on opportunities to experience work and gain basic knowledge with tool and equipment they will use in the field.
• I believe our technical students who complete a certification program have a higher employment than our 4 year college graduates.
• With so few jobs available, these courses are essential in preparing students with specific job skills.
• Experience in the field relevant to interests and talents.
• Not enough resources for the changing job market.
• They learn how to apply their academics in application. This allows them to understand and grasp what they are doing.
• Hands on approach in CTE.
• Trained for specific jobs.
• Not only do our CTE classes train students in job specific knowledge and skills, they also infuse CCRS literacy and math skills into their contact. They require students to be proficient in writing and communication skills, too.
• If the tech/voc. ed. is inclusive of a co-op program that students may participate in real, on-the-job experiences would be more helpful. However, many courses are not offered because of lack of funding—decreased enrollment. I believe that excellent course offerings should be available to ALL SCHOOL SYSTEMS regardless of enrollment because ALL STUDENTS should have access.
• When these students finish their chosen entry-level job or careers, they will be ready to work in the workforce to contribute back to society financially.
• Basic entry-level.
• AP courses, vo-tech education, and other classwork does help students prepare for transitioning to a career beyond high school. I believe more counselors are needed to show kids what the possibilities are for them.
• They provide training in areas that can be used in a desired field of work.
• It has improved.
• They provide skills needed for entry-level jobs.
• Vocational training is necessary for skilled workers.
• Some very good, some very bad.
• There is not enough variety available for students to be involved with or exposed to.
• By training students to think about career options.
• These courses provide training in specific job skills needed for many entry-level jobs or careers.
• Career Tech prepares one to be self-reliant.
• Real CTE provides entry-level job skills, but additional education may be needed for long-term career.
• Those courses that offer an industry recognized credential.
• Many skills in CTE courses prepare you better than the core classes.
• It gives them the skills as well as some soft job skills.
• I feel that an emphasis should be placed on focusing on the job market for the area that students live and attend school and updating and canceling those programs that don't meet the needs of the area.

• By providing job-specific and hands-on experience.

• CTE classes allow the student to apply the reading, writing and math skills.

• Sometimes the students who are encouraged to attend the career tech schools are not always the ones who are best suited for careers in the field offered. A better job of screening students for each course is needed.

• Career and tech ed offers hands-on training.

• TEACHING OF THEORY AND HANDS ON TRAINING.

• We have career tech numbers too low at our technical center. If you can't fill a class it should be shut down and moved to the home school. It is not right that our tech center numbers are so low, but yet the high schools are busting at the seams! We could use those computer, welding, healthcare classes at our high schools here in the county and they could serve more students.

• Most programs offer some type of credential which requires a certain skill level to attain. The credential allows the student to get their “foot in the door” which will hopefully encourage them to pursue additional education/training to advance in their field.

• These courses teach students to apply basic skills learned in core classes along with specialized skills.

• We need entry-level jobs available, career tech prepares student for postsecondary partners.

• The current courses are chosen based first on local needs, then on State needs and finally on a national need for technical skills.

• These courses prepare students in specific areas where they can get jobs.

• We learn best by doing, and career/tech courses provide that.

• I think in most cases, credentialing puts them a step ahead of entry-level.

• They need more hands on time.

• By teaching students the basic skills necessary to make them qualified to be hired.

• I feel that career and technical educations provides for a realistic approach training job ready students.

• The students get classroom instruction and support from businesses in the community.

• More practical application is needed.

• A hands-on approach ... like OJT.

• Students learn today by doing not by lecture.

• These courses more provide instruction in more career-specific topics and skills.

• Hands on and real experience.

• There needs to be a greater focus on certifications needed with industrial related jobs. Electrical, Welding, Instrumentation, etc.

• Most do, but the credentialing classes specifically do.

• They teach them common sense, problem solving techniques that are valuable for entry-level positions.
• They learn the application skills needed in 21st century business and industry.
• The new college and career Ready Indicators give students more options for career preparedness.
• When taught well, with qualified instructors and industry-level equipment.
• Again, to a degree for some courses and some careers.
• Work place skills, leadership opportunity, relevant course work.
• Some do and others are outdated.
• CT has come a long way, but it still needs to not be a stand alone portion of education. If it is done right, CT/Core academics need to cross walk their curriculums for more effective hand-on instruction.
• Generally no. It prepares a few for the few jobs available in fields that are becoming obsolete. Welding is an example. We need to be preparing students for high quality jobs - most that require substantial technology literacy.
• Every day life skills.
• More refined job skills.
• They do teach actual application.
• Technology makes students smarter and learn more.
• Not enough time spent in their respective courses.
• No real-world experiences!
• The experience in hands-on labs help the students train for jobs.
• Technology and finance are most needed.
• It offers students that aren't going to college a trade.
• With the right support, yes.
• They are the most applicable to going into the workforce.
• Students are prepared to enter the workforce with the potential of making a decent income.
• Provides students with specific job skills and knowledge.
• We rank at the bottom of key measures in the U.S.
• They inform you on things you need to know.
• Gives a head start in future careers.
• Yes, career classes help people determine what they would like to be and technical classes help you learn more about technology.
• It teaches how to do the job and the requirements for that job.
• Actually relates to things that we will use in life.
• Yes because it informs people on what they could possibly be doing.
• Most people may want to do something technical when they get older and if they learn it in school then they will be prepared.
• With a better grasp of how things work will ensure that students know how to complete tasks.
• It helps us learn a trade.
• Skills training plus career readiness.
• I don’t want to say definitely no but sometimes the tech classes lack rigor.
• Providing fundamental skills needed for the workplace.
• I believe that these classes have done well with the students and have allowed them to be ready.
• Because most jobs you have to know basic technology.
• The students will know what to do for their career.
• It helps us decide which job we might have an interest in.
• If they are going to be a technical person it will help them.
• Yes because it teaches you how to be successful in your occupation.
• These courses specify and are more-likely able to prepare students to move into those fields.
• It helps them decide what they want to do.
• Shows us jobs and what they require.
• You get trained for the real world.
• It depends on the job or career.
• Those classes do not teach a student everything that they need to know.
• It helps students know what they are getting into.
• Teaches reading comprehension, interpersonal skills, teamwork skills, basic training for technicians in our case.
• I think that the career classes help.
• They give real-world experience through regular and basic procedures, while offering a chance to get internships and actual careers.
• You learn how to perform your job requirements.
• Does allow for real-world application.
• They give the basics on what you need to learn in the future.
• Yes, they give a knowledge of how to prepare for the field of work and what we need to know about our careers.
• Depend on stuff.
• Get further in depth pertaining to a specific job or skill set.
• These classes are actual job careers.
• They certainly help, but many students still get neglected in the classes.
• It helps them prepare for the job they want in the future.
• We don’t have enough time to learn the material.
• For students wanting a job in the future that involves technology.
• Because it helps you make up your mind what you want to be or do when you get older.
• They are beneficial to everyone.
• The new programs are helping.
• No because I already know about computers.
• It’s part of training.
• They help the student know how to do specific things on computers.
• Gives kids a taste of the job so before they get engrossed.
• Yes, they give us more knowledge of the kind of job we want to do. Those kind of classes prepare of for the job more than say social studies.
• Life lesson.
• Because we will usually be working with computers.
• They help you in knowing how to do that certain job.
• It gets students prepared.
• They give specific training for your future job.
• We need to know about technology.
• People now a days need to have technical education because it’s 2014 and everything is turning digital.
• Application and hands on skills of knowing how to.
• They have to do more problem solving.
• Not at dothan technology center. could be done better.
• Learning a trade does prepare students for entry-level work.
• Absolutely
• Career Tech diploma does not mean anything. It only means they have taken two Career Tech classes. Students need a certification to follow any significance with a “Career Tech” Diploma. Put some meaning behind it.
• However, technical skills needed by the industries in Alabama can change too quickly to prepare curriculum and garner interest from students. For example, electrical and quality engineers are in higher demand than the supply. This is an excellent paying job, but the supply of skilled labor force is lacking.
• Matches them to skills they fit best with as future workers.
• New courses allow schools to work with local and national businesses to prepare students.
• They are “more” job specific and application level, if they’re targeting specific skill sets. Must work with the CTE instructors as they know the students better than anyone.
• Support CCRS.
• They allow students to explore career opportunities, learn real skills that are valuable to employers, experience the workplace, perhaps even find out what they DON’T like to do, which is better to find out sooner than later.
• Teaching the skills that they need.
• Gives hands on training.
• Provides further studies and training in specific areas.
• I think entry-level is the key word. Some feel if they have taken the technical education that they need to immediately move into a technical position.
• They have skills they take from the classes.
• They are provided with hands on training and an opportunity for on the job training.
• Career Tech has improved over the past few years and dual enrollment opportunities help students jump start their career or college plans.
• Cursive writing is not taught in school...I consider this a necessary basic.
• A long as the proper materials are covered and student takes it serious.
• Skill sets are what employers want, not general education.
• Students need classes on how to look for jobs.
• Not where I live.
• For the most part.
• Most students need more training and time to mature.
• Again...it is up to the child to chose their path. All courses should be offered to all students equally.
• Outdated, tenuous connection to current jobs.
• They are exposed to the common computer applications and are somewhat proficient upon graduation.
• They help you learn the basics of a job so you can have a entry-level position.
• Should oiled help no matter what you do.
• It might help them in deciding what they would like to do in the future.
• More basic living info.
• CTE classes help students reach their goals and expose them to careers in field they either want to be in, or maybe don’t know a lot about. These classes also prepare students for the workplace.
• The courses may give the student enough for entry-level job status, but more in-depth courses would be more beneficial. Also courses in masonry, carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, bricklaying, etc. It is extremely difficult to find skilled workers in these fields & will only get more so in the years to come.
• Specific job skills in technology, foods services, healthcare, etc.
• Need more accounting classes/ business classes.
• Not enough programs active today.
• Kids cant count back change after a financial transaction.
• Teaches students skills that are useful in careers as well as everyday life.
• Hands on and practical.
• Students in CTE programs have skills upon graduation that allow them to get a job in their field and earn money.
• Opportunity to practice applicable skills.
• The are given skills that will allow them to function in a work environment.
• Some college teaches student about money making classes.
• Career or technical education prepares students to enter the work force.
• Hands-on workplace setting and opportunities for live work.
• It could be better, they focus on stuff that has nothing to do with real world.
• I think career and technical education courses can be a very critical step towards entry-level jobs and careers.
• By teaching specific skills.
• None are offered.
• It helps the student what will be expected of them and it helps the companies have better employees.
• People change careers to often.
• Career and technical education courses provide opportunities for student to learn how to work with others, communicate effectively, manage their time wisely, and participate in activities that involve real-world situations.
• I have seen in some cases that the students do not choose to be in these programs. They are have aspirations to do other things, but are forced to take these classes that are not beneficial to them.
• I just don’t see much of any programs here.
• Need more tech centers.
• Employability skills, time management, interview skills, communication skills, technology, work skills, etc.
• Everyone may not be cut out for the traditional 4-year college.
• Can prepare students for post high school plans.
• Yes, to some degree.
• Yes, they help students identify their career path.
• Secondary Edu. CTE programs can’t keep up with the technological advances because of equipment costs.
• These courses have practical application in today’s job market. These must walk hand-in-hand with academics.
• Specific skills are mastered.
• They are able to develop a skill.
• Need more specific education courses available.
• Students receive OJT.
• Students are trained in specific areas.
• Less training necessary by prospective employers.
• For students not wishing to pursue higher education, technical training is essential to success.
• Still doing traditional format....no opportunity for using technology T school.
• Helps better prepare them for the real-world or college.
• Need more options.
• Real-world work experience.
• They have a needed skill to apply immediately.
• It should at least let them know if they would like a future in that chosen area.
• It serves those students who do not want to enter college the benefit of achieving a career.
• Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint.
• Real-world skills needed for employment.
• If they learn about programming, and how to use computers and Microsoft Office.
• Theses courses are geared toward training students for a specific job.
• Their skills would be more specific to certain tasks.
• They are not available to all students.
• More so than academic classes but still not sufficiently.
• Technology is everywhere!
• Technology is everywhere. There is not one job which doesn’t require dealing with technology.
• I think we need more areas/classes that teach a variety of skills so that these children can not only go out and GET a job, but be more successful.
• Yes, because most students will not be able to attend college given the geographic region they live in and the parents finances. Most will need to something to learn to gain jobs right out of HS.
• Teaching them practical knowledge.
• Students gain entry-level skills and career readiness needed for employment.
• They are geared specifically to a set trade or skill needed by employers.
• When delivered properly under good leadership.
• Most Instructors not qualified to teach the trade and are politically appointed.
• Technical skills support those academic skills preparing students for entry-level jobs/career.
• Our school board does not care and our teachers have given up.
• Teach skills.
• Trade workers are needed.
• Still need to keep moving forward on this matter.
• They need the hands on work so they will be more prepared for what is out there.
• A lot of kids will not go to college so they need something.
• They teach life skills.
• Job familiarity.
• If a student plans to enter a blue collar field, I think C&T courses give them the basic skills necessary to start out in their field.
• Specific tech courses for teenagers in a constantly changing economy and job climate are a waste for “most” students. How many students from previous generations grew up to be carpenters just because their high school required woodworking? I think teens need parental involvement and guidance along with legitimate career fairs and expos to learn more about what local companies do and offer and how they can best match their own interests and skills to a career.
• Some students are ivy league.
• There needs to be more focus on jobs such as welding.
• An entry-level job yes but not a career that will be successful.
• Because no matter what or how much you know these employers won’t give you a fair try. They’d rather hire Sally Sue’s cousin than a honest hard working individual.

• First, Career Tech reach kids who does not have a high level of interest in school. Secondly, CT offers program such as welding, auto...these are high paying jobs.

• For some entry-level jobs, but not all.

• You have to be somewhat informed on what your job requires.

• Because any experience is good experience. These options weren’t offered when I graduated from hs.

• By providing important job skills, and how to get along with others.

• Technical skills are great for those specific technical positions. They do prepare a student for work, but still need a foundation of basic learning as well.

• It depends on the courses and how seriously the student takes them.

• If the instructors have been in industry, they can share their wisdom/experience. Furthermore, courses are more related to that in industry.

• I think more classes like accounting or better computer classes are needed more than algebra.

• The AutoCAD courses especially help one understand the real-world application of data tools. Auto body is for a select few artists who really excel at hard work. Small motors will prepare a select few for repair jobs but can expose many more to the rigors of repairing a lawn mower instead of just buying a new one. That is something the country sorely needs.

• Not all CTE programs lead to certification.

• Same as above....if quality teacher and they try to succeed.

• This gives a realistic course on the real world.

• Most do.

• The best way to learn is to do.

• They are passed not based on their English or Math grades but because of their minority.

• Each student has different skills and interests, so having technical career training options is critical to a prepared workforce.

• Skills needed for employment.

• If by technical you mean vocational- welding, electronics, plumbing, etc.

• As a previous student of the Elmore County Tech School, I felt extremely prepared for a full time job in childcare after graduating high school.

• They used to. Now, Common core is preparing them to be robots and average at best.

• Alabama students still need additional teaching for basic jobs.

• These courses give immediate help in real life job opportunities.

• No knowledge of tech school.

• It provides them with skills that incorporate academics.

• Because most of the jobs today are based on technical and skill.

• It provides them with training that might not be readily available or would be gotten "on the job”.

• Maybe. Not familiar with these programs.
• I feel career and technical courses give students basic skills for an entry-level position.
• Reality....hands on.
• Mostly depends on their job choice as to which helps them the most.
• Yes! I was in HOSA when I was in high school 16 years ago. Having hands-on experience helped me make the right choices about my career.
• In order to succeed on a job interview, one must be able to speak and write coherently.
• Again, just the basics.
• Too many technical programs have been dropped from our schools programs. "Kids" today need these skills to function!
• Only a handful can get those studies.
• There are not enough career and technical education options for children in Alabama.
• Hands on experience is more valuable than mere empty words. Learning about something is not the same as learning to do something.
• Gets them started in something they like.
• No because those courses have become a dumping ground for behavioral problem kids.
• I do, the problem is not everyone takes advantage of career and technical education. Until at least one year of Career tech is mandatory between grades 9-11, students won't be nearly prepared for the job market.
• Need to know where jobs are available and work in that direction.
• These types of courses teaches on the job skills needed for experience.
• Basic
• Only from high school on.
• More and more people will need technical education in their life.
• Need more computer science.
• When students leave a Career Tech program, they are work-ready.
• The application of the core content and the certifications earned in CTE classes are critical and valuable to students.
• Provides entry-level only--need more programs.
• Now, kids have to go to a CC after H.S. to develop a marketable skill.
• They have the basic knowledge they need.
• Work study.
• Waste of money!
• Not enough time devoted to the course. At best, in our local program it is nothing more than making the student aware of various trades.
• Career and Technical Education courses will teach students computer and technology skills that many need in order to be successful in today's world.
• Cover more specific.
• Entry-level is cashiers at Walmart, thus teenagers don’t need this.
• Prepares then more specifically in a field that interest them.
• Hands on skills and work ethic.
• Provides actual hands on lessons and skills.
• Hands on real life training.
• Job in services & trades yes. Not for professional careers or management skills.
• Teach skills.
• Can be specific needed craftsmen or careers.
• Any skills are an asset.
• Course offerings.
• Real-world application.
• I think they prepare students for careers but if you have 67 trade schools teaching the same things to students then it would seem that you are crowding the job market every year. I think career tech programs should be geared to jobs available in an area and changed if the job situation changes.
• Not geared toward real jobs. They need to learn trades.
• Students certify in their field before leaving school.
• Prepares them for specific job.
• If skills are taught for specific job.
• More tech courses are needed.
• CTE courses with academic courses prepares our children for an entry-level job right out of high school.
• My perspective of tech education is similar to my previous answer. Public education in AL is severely underfunded. As a result, AL children continue to fall further and further behind the rest of the Nation.
• Where they exist. Too many areas with no programs.
• In my opinion these are courses with lots of hands-on experiences that some students are more able to relate to.
• They need to learn about careers and how to prepare for them.
• They are introduced to the dynamics of the work place with hands on experience.
• Better prepared if credentialed.
• It's actual job training.
• Gives real-world experience with hands on activities...
• They take book knowledge and make it practical, as well as help students learn what they may want to do in life.
• Sometimes and for some jobs.
• Some career tech courses do prepare students but for the most part, I feel that our programs are antiquated and not in line with the current industries and jobs available.
• Provide career specific content.
• Entry-level job, nothing more than that though.
• In my opinion, the knowledge gained from CT courses help students be better rounded students and also open doors for the student who college is not for them.
• Tech courses provide basic skills needed for entry-level positions.
• Prepare for certain career paths.
• Technical trades are a vanishing specialty and needed more in this and future generations.
• At least 25% of all our high school students will not seek post high school educations. We can help students stay in high school and increase the post graduate numbers by offering this training.
• Yes because you get hands-on experience.
• They give us technical skills needed for they job.
• Its high school.
• Some students are prepared but many are not.
• It's a nice elective but hardly enough to get them a job.
• Any advantage you can get in school helps getting a job once you’re out.
• Few companies offer much on-the-job training other than how their own system works. Having a background in a technical field makes it easier to get a job and to excel quickly. Career ed courses help students operate in an entirely different culture when they take a job.
• Teamwork and soft skills are developed in CTE.
• Technical education is mandatory in all jobs today.
• Career tech education shows students why they need to to know their basic core academics, math, science, English, history through real-world application.
• “I don’t know” should be an option here.
• See #1.
• To some degree. I think we must better prepare our students so that they are able to compete on an international level. We must think global.
• Teaching applicable skills.
• On the job training.
• We have excellent teachers.
• I really don’t know, but “I don’t know” wasn't an option.
• Gives specific skills to qualify for specific tasks.
• Could be very useful, depending on career.
• Acquaint them with how a specific field operates. This helps when they try to learn to specifics in a particular job.
• Career and technical education courses should be offered to all Alabama students. Basic education and then for those who choose technical courses and training for specific jobs should be available to all Alabama students. All students do not have the means or the desire to attend college.
• They get workplace ready skills in the career tech class more so then in core classes.
• Possibly, depending on who is doing the teaching and what that person care to provide to her/his young.
• Partnerships with union apprentice programs help. Work and intern programs with businesses also help. The over emphasis on testing hurts all education programs. The lack of funding has been awful for our career programs.

• Employers look for some indication of acquired skills either specific or transferable.

• Students learn what to expect and what their employers will expect from them in their CTE courses. They also learn specific skills for their chosen career.

• Nothing sells to an employer better than SKILLS.

• It teaches some real-world skills needed to succeed in the world of work.

• Not sure.

• Yes, the skills that students learn in career and technical education carry on to either entry-level job or career. Whether students opt to go straight into the work force or take the educational route, they will need the skills such as computer skills, typing, in either of these area.

• They teach these soft skills needed for students to be successful after high school.

• These teach students a marketable skill.

• BETTER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE JOB.

• The focus is on or should be on skills necessary for job entry.

• have just enough to get you started and qualified for the position.

• Provides basic knowledge + essential skills.

• Providing authentic, hands-on experience enables the potential for increasing a person's aptitude and ability in various fields of endeavor.

• Yes, that is how I got into my current field, thru tech courses.

• It teaches application of knowledge.

• By teaching them to use real-world equipment that the industry is using today. They learn how to interact with clients.

• Provides real-world skills taught by real-world professionals.

• If mixed with basic math, science, history and English.

• Entry-level YES, BUT YOU CAN ADD MORE.

• Teaches them what they need to maintain employment.

• These courses may limit the level one may attain; however, they do not limit one's possibilities if higher education is a factor.

• In classes where you have your up to date equipment the students get hands on experience while in high school. In a lot of cases the new schools have better equipment than the business section.

• Some instructors do a great job.

• Career and technical education courses focus on skills that will be used on the job and is what the employer is really looking for.

• They get hands-on learning skills and learn how to plan projects, work as a team, and make presentations.

• They will have some of the skills to do “work”.

• It depends on the person.
• Although core classes help students, having specific skills applicable to trades are extremely necessary as well and qualify students for jobs immediately instead of after years of a degree at a university.
• It gives the person a skill that can go anywhere with them.
• Students have skills specific to their area of interest and aptitude.
• Hands on training.
• It depends on the individual’s career preference.
• Teachers are skilled in their area and they share real life experiences with students.
• If the instructor goes beyond the curriculum.
• By providing hands-on and practical training and skill development.
• By giving them a skill, it will be easier for them to find employment.
• I personally work very closely with my students (grand children) and therefore am hands on with each of them to assist them with the preparation for either higher learning or entry-level careers.
• It helps the student know everything about the job, no surprises.
• Everyone is not ready to go to college right out of high school.
• This is a faulty question because it depends on whether they end up pursuing that career. Another choice should have been given.
• I say yes but it is often situational. Some tech classes are nothing but babysitting with few expectations.
• Hands on training.
• Yes if they wish to remain impoverished wage slaves for their entire lives.
• But how do you define entry-level?
• Skills to use in a specify field.
• These courses are more specific in their nature and provide a beginning for entering the highly competitive world of work.
• The largest number of immediate job openings are in this field.
• Giving them additional skills for specific jobs.
• We need both.
• Work ethic.
• Somewhat skeptical about technical since that is in my opinion can be bias in its preparation.
• No soft skills, critical thinking skills, financial management.
• I think that career and technical education courses do a great job of preparing students with entry-level employment skills.
• It gives students a real prospective on what it is like in the workforce and broadens their ideas on career goals.
• Depending on the job.
• These course work in conjunction with the course in # 2 and should be available to students.
• With out a doubt.
• CTE courses give students a hands-on experience of how to function on a job. It gives them knowledge of the 16 cluster job areas to help them decide what career they would love to work in.
• Skills and requirements change rapidly requiring further education.
• Career Tech teaches students and allows them to demonstrate their understanding in a hands-on way.
• By providing useful technical knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
• Specific, hands-on skills are important if one chooses not to go on to college for a 4-year degree or if they want to attend a community college and extend those hands-on skills.
• These courses teach the skills needed, but still neglect the foundations of a successful career. It could be the difference in being a mechanic and owning your own garage.
• Still need academics.
• Provides hands-on experience transferable knowledge.
• Helps prepare students for the workplace and see what their interests are.
• They prepare us for certain jobs that we want to pursue.
• We have hands-on activities.
• Students get the opportunity to explore certain careers. They often see more relevance.
• Employers are looking for individuals with multi-tasking skills.
• I think these courses are just as important as academics.
• Skills are needed.
• The Tech colleges seem to do better than the basic ed.
• If it is hands-on and job-like training.
• Technology is the future. Every citizen needs to be a user. Creators of technology (like programmers) are the future.
• I guess they do they certainly should.
• The students seem to be prepared. Unfortunately the jobs they are preparing for are not there or the economy is not able to sustain their job choices. There needs to be more diversity in job preparation.
• Career and technical education courses may prepare students for a step-up or advantage in attaining entry-level jobs.
• They provide actual skills sets that require very little to utilize in employment.
• Students, become more skill in their professional.
• I believe there need to be more choices for High School Student to be able to have technical training, all students are not college material.
• Along with the courses listed above you are learning marketable skills that can be used to work your way through college!
• Specific skills that are marketable.
• There is too much busy work w/o core skill instruction.
• Providing specific skill sets for hands-on careers.
• For certain students, yes.
• These courses should train a student in a special field for the job market.
• Much more specific.
• Trained job applicants are a must.
• Basics skills for employment can be learned at these institutions.
• We can't teach everything they need to know on the job, it's too expensive.
• Even if the skills they learn do not apply to the career they enter, they still have the discipline of applying themselves to learning and reaching for mastering those skills.
• Basic skills development for job performance.
• Some basic info and hands on experience.
• Job specific training when offered.
• Not everyone wants to attend college. Vocational courses provide career options for those who do not choose to attend 4 year college.
• Some students are more prone to technical skills and fair better in courses where there are hand on experience.
• Trained workers entering the workforce not only save an employer time and money, but a knowledgeable workforce attracts new industry to a state.
• Again, attempt is made but could improve.
• You have to start somewhere.
• Certification in trades.
• I don’t think all schools are the same as far as what is offered to students in lower income levels. There should be more campuses in regards to a students financial abilities to receive financial aid that gives them the same opportunities as someone who is more affluent.
• Most of these programs, if well implemented, prepare students for a full apprenticeship or similar program.
• All people are not suited for College. My Son went to Allen Thorton in high school when he finished he was ready for the Job market and has done well.
• CTE programs provide academic and technical expertise to students. CTE courses provide “real-world” experiences that allow students to understand the importance of academic courses. CTE is the driving force behind work force development.
• I have personally seen students graduate h.s. with vocational experience and go straight into good jobs.
• Knowledge is power.
• Exposure to what kinds of jobs are available if one does not feel they are drawn to the professions.
• Because these technical skills prepare the students for real professionals instead of sit down jobs.
• They help you to jump start your career often quicker than a 4 year degree.
• If they can learn a trade then they can work and be productive, need to start earlier on the courses.
• By providing skills demanded in vital jobs.
• They can offer specific skills needed in specific jobs.
• When students have the available time to take CTE courses, they are taught real-world skills and can be certified to work after graduation.
• Teaching basic skills for jobs.
• Yes, and sometimes that’s all of the schooling they can afford!
• Many can get a job when they finish.
• It will give a lot of kids a trade.
• Students that only want skill jobs these courses are important.
• These courses begin the process of preparation.
• Programs should be centered around well paying shortages.
• Without these skills our students, will be at a disadvantage in our workforce in the future. This gives them the skills to survive and provide for their families in the future, not every child is made to be a four year college graduate. we need career and technical skills to keep our country strong.
• Alabama needs to improve ALL education courses provided to its citizens.
• Provides a hands on experience and job readiness.
• Walk before you run.
• If geared to the industrial needs and areas that are employing entry-level persons.
• I have not seen these courses being taught.
• Not everyone is suited for the college experience.
• If well taught, learned and put to use.
• Some do...some don’t.
• They give you the specific job skills needed to perform the tasks required for certain occupations at the entry-level.
• Career and technical courses can prepare for specific jobs, but the job market changes so rapidly that I do not recommend vocational specialization at an early stage. Most high-school courses should develop broad academic skills that are essential not only for the job market but for citizenship.
• There are good courses that can lead students to a career.
• To some degree, more on the job training and learning how to apply what they have learned in a real setting helps them put the theory into practice.
• They require hours of practice and training.
• Entry-level, but probably dead-end.
• See above.
• If conducted in partnership with the industries that are coming into our state, to form curricula and applications that align with employers goals in building their workforce.
• The courses better prepare students who are interested in a job/career not college.
• I think they can, if they are continually modernized to keep up with state of the art or current best business practices. No point in teaching people skills on equipment that are 20 years out of date.
• US manufacturing has been betrayed. NAFTA GATT new Pacific Trade Agreement?
• Inadequate
• Teaching skills that can be used immediately upon employment.
• These also help students tremendously. I think they need to have some other classes too.
• Skills learned in these programs as one graduates are still very current in student lives.......I have judged events in these areas of preparation and rate.

• Career and tech classes as exceptional. Students not only learned content for careers but have developed speaking, organizational, cooperative aspects of their personalities.

• Career & Technical teach them what to expect on the job & give them a more outlook on what is expected on the job.

• They provide a wonderful starting platform for those students who greatly prefer it to liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

• But only if the student’s curriculum matches his goal entry-level job.

• We will always need various technical services

• By giving them specific tools to succeed right away in an entry-level job. But, they may fail to prepare the individual for substantial advancement.

• Not everyone is intended to go to college. And we REALLY need technical people.

• Technical education courses benefit those students who know they are not prepared for college.

• I know very little about this type education. I answered ‘yes’ because if it is not preparing students, then the name needs to be changed to “Neither career nor technical education.”

• By offering choices based on experience/immersion.

• Could provide more specific focus on skills demanded by the labor market.

• They can, if adequately taught.

• A good starting point is all that most of us need. Career tech give students the starting point.

• This route also prepares people for a job.

• Same answer as above.

• They know a skill.

• They can be helpful but the basic knowledge as stated above are necessary; selection of a career path comes with a good knowledge base.

• Hands-on learning.

• Provide specific skills for many blue collar professions.

• They have the knowledge necessary for entry-level jobs.

• Better than nothing but that is all it’s better than.

• Teaches a skill at the expense of critical thinking.

• I’m kind of a maybe on this. I want it to but I don’t know a single person that the program has successfully helped and there are not enough geared towards females.

• Tech courses teach them the skills used for careers in mechanical or electrical repair, although those jobs seem to be fewer and fewer.

• Basic training of a hand’s on skill crosses many professions making opportunities greater.

• I don’t know; I’m not familiar with what’s offered currently.

• Today’s jobs require technical knowledge.

• It meets basic requirement required by entry-level jobs.
• If we offered the courses - like basic welding, I would say “yes.” But in too many areas of the state, there is no career-tech program offered in high schools. Even in rural South Alabama, where I live, the only CT class is Ag.

• A college education helps to develop a person as an adult.

• Done well they have the ability to enhance opportunities for students.

• These courses are designed to prepare students for the real world.

• I think programs that are taking CTE serious are. However, I feel that the Career Prep course is taking away valuable training in basic software used such as Word and Excel.

• Students are exposed to real-life situations and training through these programs. This is done so that hopefully students will know how to handle themselves when they enter the workforce.

• Hands on learning/get experience.

• Especially FOR STUDENTS THAT STRUGGLE WITH NORMAL ACADEMIC COURSES. THIS WILL PREPARE NON-COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL AND BE PRODUCTIVE CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

• CTE provides real-life contexts to the core subjects, and also helps students explore career options through hands-on instruction.

• These courses relate classroom experiences to the workplace.
Appendix E
Responses from Alabama Citizens, Question 28
## Question: What is your county of residence?

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Appendix F
Responses from Students, Question 6
Question: Do you think academic courses—mathematics, science, English, social studies—prepare you for an entry-level job or a career?

• Because they teach you common skills for the work place.
• Teaches you the basics.
• When you apply the skills you learn in high school into your job, you get a lot done, and you do not have to spend time learning how to do something you learned to do in high school.
• In a way they do, you need to know all the basics. However, a lot of the jobs people do won't use advanced mathematics and use the knowledge that atoms in solids are packed together tightly.
• Most entry-level jobs do not require any of this and even when it comes to stocking or something of the sort, the math is very simple.
• It helps us become more familiar with what's going on in the world.
• You need to know how to count, and speak the correct way.
• Yes, because you have to math if you work in a cash register or dealing with any kind of money, science if you are a doctor, English for when you are talking to someone and you use correct grammar even when you fill out an application.
• You have to have proper grammar, you have to know how to read.
• Well, depending on what you want to do is really how you can answer that. If someone wants to be teacher, they're probably going to have to know all that. If you want to be an archeologist then you will need to know science and social studies to study the history and how things were back then. And doctors need math. There's just so many examples of it.
• They make you think critically and become more mentally demanding each year.
• By giving you the necessary education.
• You learn thing and will help you get more in life. For ex. math you learn and know how to work out problems.
• The academic courses help you prepare by knowing what you have to know in order to go into a career or job.
• It teaches us the things we need to know. Like math teaches us how to calculate, finance our stuff.
• You need these classes for college.
• Because I am going to be a doctor
• Because everything that you do will involve math. And you never know what they might throw at you when you get into work or even college.
• I believe these academic courses prepare you for an entry-level job because every career needs basic knowledge in these courses.
• Mathematics because of the money. Science because you need to know what to do on the animal. English because of the speaking. Social studies because you need to study about the animal.
• They prepare you for skills you need in the real world.
• I think that these subjects allow you to open the doors up to more jobs, because you use most of these everyday and you don’t even realize it.
• They prepare you for the future and the skills that you will need for a job.
• In some ways I think they do. It depends on what job choice or career is chosen.
• It allows us to get a small taste of the knowledge needed to enter into the workforce.
• They just do.
• Math teaches you simple stuff like adding and subtracting. English teaches you how to speak and use words correctly.
• Because it informs you more on the subject at hand.
• Because you use all of these things in everyday life.
• Knowing the things we learn in our core subjects helps prepare us for work life because the things we learn are used in everyday life.
• It helps create foundations for jobs that you will have one day.
• I want to be a biochemist.
• You get taught proper English and you need to know like what you make and stuff.
• You have to use math, science and English for the rest of your life.
• Because they teach you the things you need to know for future careers.
• You have to use them for writing resumes, calculating how much you are pay, and simply speaking to people.
• Math, science, and English are very important when it comes to being in the field I would like to be in. I would like to become a Plastic Surgeon, or a Psychologist and for this it takes a lot of training and knowledge.
• The stuff we do in school prepare us for the world and math and science and reading and other stuff is going to be a key factor in life.
• They prepare you for a job that you may want to do someday.
• Because learning all this stuff now in school will prepare us for whatever job we may want to do in the future.
• The field that you are going to enter depends on what you study and major in.
• The majority of the academic classes do not teach skills that we will need to know after high school and college.
• They teach you things you will probably need in your future career.
• Science-So I can learn about the body and cells.
• For engineering on jammed weapons and utilities for equipment.
• They will help you with learning how to do money and everyday in life things.
• Mathematical and how Science is helpful with everyday life.
• Teaches you skills you need to do a job.
• They don’t teach you anything about how to work and earn a living.
• By knowing the basic skills of education.
• Because some jobs use these things every day.
• Its education of course it’s going to help you.
• Yes because you may find a job that has one of these subjects.
• Mathematics may help you in the fact that you may have to work the cashier job. English to help with writing your resume for the interview.

• They help you prepare with numbers if you want to be an account. They help you communicate with others.

• I want to go into the medical field. Therefore, this is preparing me for it.

• It’s gonna help when you get holder.

• It is important to know correct grammar, but literature is a waste of time if I’m not going to be an author.

• Well If I were to enter the medical field like I wanted to I would need expansive knowledge of math and science.

• Mathematics can be a valuable skill to learn if you want to be an engineer.

• They teach you the basic skills you need for any type of job.

• Help you type.

• They help you learn the basis of what you need to know.

• Gets prepared for college.

• Tells you what you need to know.

• It depends on what kind of career you are wanting to look into to.

• Well, some classes are helpful towards each individuals career. I want to be a writer, and I get I need to have knowledge in math, but I feel like I learn a lot that is unnecessary. I feel students (after middle school) should have more freedom in choosing their courses.

• Through school.

• I’m wanting to be an OB GYN so all of the academic courses are ver necessary.

• I think it depends on what you want to do when you grow up and start looking into careers.

• The classes help you to know what you are doing in the future. They educate you in your classes for your career.

• The certain classes you take in high school may let you not have to take that class during college.

• They give you information of the job you want to have and tells you how to do it well.

• Mathematics help you with numbers. English improves your vocabulary as well as your critical thinking.

• Helps you know what your doing on your job.

• Need more.

• Because, what I’m going to do doesn't require English, social studies, or science. It requires basic math skills that I already know.

• You use all of that information during an everyday life, and you will use it later on in the future.

• Because some of these you well use in every day life.

• The things they teach you.

• They give you any information you need for a variety of careers.

• Because you need to learn the basic knowledge for life.

• The basics of all core classes are needed to have any job what so ever.
• You will need to know them later. It is good simply to know these things.
• Prepares us for our future.
• You will need these to be successful in the major of jobs in the world.
• It gives you intelligence, but sometimes certain lessons or subjects we learn don't necessarily mean we will use all of them in our day-to-day lives.
• I do think that they will help prepare for careers, but sometimes I feel like the material is a little shallow.
• When you have a job you will need to know the basics of education and learning. You use these basics everyday in an everyday lifestyle. You use these basics on the job, at home, you use these basics everywhere you go. Therefore, because of this they are needed tools of knowledge.
• Academic courses expand my knowledge about everything. If I’m not ready, it’s my fault.
• Yes Because, they help you get prepared for the future.
• So you can be ready for any job that you may come by.
• In your job you might want to do a job that requires you to read and do math or work on science or history about something, it just depends on your job.
• They all contribute to work skills you will need such as social skills and mathematical skills.
• Because you will use all of these in life when you are older.
• No because you don’t need to know history to become a doctor, the only subjects you might need will be math and English.
• Yes, because they teach you some of what you need to know when you go to get a job. They also teach you what is necessary to know.
• It prepares me for life.
• They help you be prepared for your classes.
• They help prepare you because you’re most likely going to use this information later in life.
• They can make you better in your particular career field.
• They prepare you for tasks in the workforce.
• Gets you ready for the future.
• Because I want to be in the Navy in that don’t apply to what rank I want to be.
• Because you will have to know all these courses and succeed them to reach my career or dream that I have set for myself.
• You will need it in life.
• They give you the basic information for the workplace.
• Helps with problem solving skills.
• One must know basic skills to perform entry-level jobs.
• Although basic classes are instrumental in development, vocational courses such as engineering and technology classes are more equipped to prepare students for careers.
• They are AP.
• Core classes are the basis of every job area.
• These are basics that are essential in everyday jobs.
• Sometimes, some of the academic courses are not needed for the career choice that you want to have.
• Because it get me ready for the future cause then I will have to do math and reading on any job.
• Just math will probably help with my career because, my career is graphic design.
• I think that these academic courses will prepare you for these things by giving you the tools and knowledge you need to succeed.
• Because you start learning a head of time.
• I believe you should take more time to learn as much as you can.
• A lot of jobs deal with science and math on a daily basis, English can help on the way you speak towards others, and social studies teach you the history behind how jobs started etc.
• Yes, because it teaches things that you will need in the future such as when you get a good career. It also teaches you how to know things that will stick with you for the rest of your life.
• You can use the skills you gained in math and science for a career as a inventor by looking at problems and solving them.
• They help prepare me by teaching the basics of most jobs.
• The way that the academic courses help you are they get (you) prepared to a higher level of education and the older (you) get and the higher the grade you are in the more advance your education is.
• Without these courses we wouldn’t have all this technology.
• You use mathematics, science, English, and social studies most of our lives.
• Yes because if you are going to the NBA like I am then academics like playing basketball will really help me get there.
• Yes,because I never know when I might need to use what I have learned.
• It helps be ready for the next level.You will always have these courses in your life.
• All academic courses are somehow necessary for a successful career.
• No I don’t think my courses prepare me for an entry-level or a career.the career I want to pursue in I need a higher education.
• I believe mathematics, social studies, science, and English prepare us for a job, some more than others. English helps us learn how to speak properly. Mathematics techs us how to divide numbers and add for if we get a job at a bank or are staying on a budget. Social studies helps us learn about the past of our ancestors, and science teaches us about the different things that make up our world.
• Your entry- level for your jobs or careers are based on how well you do on those academic courses. This is because employers want to have the most educated people applied in their work departments.
• I think it helps for job career because you will need to know how to read n do math for mostly every job.
• I think this because these academic courses teach you what you have to know for a job you want to prepare for.
• I think it does because this courses will help you in life
• I think it will because in life when you are grown you will have to use all of these subjects. You will use math when you are using your money no matter if it is adding, subtracting, dividing, or
multiplying. You will sometimes use science but not so much. You use English every day when you talk. You will use social studies when you are trying to find a way to get somewheres.

- I say no because you don't have to no you history to become things like a doctor or to work at a fast food place, and that goes for the other subjects (too). The only one you might need is English.
- The reason why I said yes is because you you learn different things in all your classes.
- They can help you be better in your particular field.
- How because they are trying to get us ready for these things.
- The academic courses give us information that we will use sometime in life; like English will be used on a resume or any paper.
- Yes because you may need to know math and science and English and social studies.
- By teaching you how to do basic stuff.
- I think they prepare us by giving us a more advanced level of education.
- I say no to this specific question because of all of the different job fields. I believe that children should choose a career young then go to school and take classes based off of what they would like to do when they get older. For example, if a student would like to become a physical education teacher when they get older, I personally don’t think that, that student should have to take 13 years of a math class that just gets harder and harder each year. I think they should be taking classes like CPR, and children behavior classes.
- I don’t think they do because the teachers don’t have the right materials to do so.
- They teach you the basic necessities to succeeding at the job you want to enlist in.
- I think academic courses prepare me for an entry-level for a job and career because what we see in school we are going to see it again in life. Also it help so we can already know how to do it.
- They help you prepare for an entry-level job or career by helping you get better in these academic courses.
- I think academic courses prepare me for an entry-level job or a career because in the future whenever I begin the career I want to do I will need mathematics, reading, English & science skills.
- It will prepare so I would know what’s going on so I can pass and make it easier for me. English, Math, Social Studies, and Science are your main subjects.
- They still teach you things that you can use in the work field.
- Education is to better you. If you know the basic things you need to know you can move forward. These things can also help you towards the career you want to pursue.
- These courses prepare you with the basic and advanced mechanics for any job.
- I don’t think that certain teachers are teaching us the certain things that apply to each of our job choices. We don't get the amount of education needed to go to certain colleges that are better for us.
- By getting you ready for the real-world businesses.
- In stead of learning the pythagorean theory we need to learn how to do things like taxes, and learning how mortgages and loans work.
- You will need to know these courses for most all job.
- Well if I want to be a game software developer I have to have the measures of designing characters or objects. Next I would need English so a player can read the things that are going to happen or
the objectives the player must complete in the game. The only time you should use science and social studies is when you have action/adventure games, educational games, and sporting games.

- Courses like math and English prepare (you) for life, because (you) will always have to add numbers and learn how to read and comprehend.

- In science we talk about different things which I look up to so I can learn everything while (I’m) in school so I can be prepared to go to college. Mainly in BTA she teaches us everything so if we decided to go to college we will know everything when we go there. BTA is one of the best class I really can learn from because what she teaches is like 9th and 10th grade level so right (I’m) making A B honors roll because of me learning from BTA and me doing my work. If (I’m) learning from BTA I can go to college and join the Military afterward.

- Because these courses will help me by being able to calculate the money I’ve earned and help me read at exceptional levels.

- Just cuz.

- Mathematics and science show you how things work and they are used everyday, English shows how to read and follow directions, history gives us modern technology and helps us make sure we don't make the same mistake twice.

- If you never to math class, you will be confused when it comes to paying bills and taking care of financial problems.

- The academic courses helps you for almost any job. Like math for example, if you want to work in a bank, be a teacher, or even to join the military you will need to know math even to do basic stuff like shopping you need math.

- These skills help you by teaching you things that you will ned to now in order to have a successful career.For example everyone has to deal with money in their life so math will help you better yourself when you need help with your income.

- I believe that academic courses help with certain jobs like math helps with banking, construction, etc.

- Because it is a way of showing you how to do thing (you) may do different jobs with the needs of those academic courses.

- It allows you to be prepared for the various types of jobs that there are.

- Yes, because either way it go, you gonna have to use them in any job, especially math and reading.

- Well when you get older you are going to need to apply these thing you learning in school to your job.

- Because you still need to learn about other courses to get to prepare you to start a job or a career.

- Honesty, They do. They prepare you for real life situations. They teach you things you don’t know. Even if some of the things don’t actually happen or cause you to solve that situation it's still good to know extra information.

- The career I want can do with math and English and maybe social studies.

- Yes, I do because we will need mathematics, science, English, and social studies when we start working. These four things will help us through multiple situations throughout life.

- IT will help you a lot.

- Because everything your learn in those 4 classes will help you later on in your life when you go to apply for a job.

- Will help you more equal for any job you would like.
• I think it prepares you by the different type of job you want in the future.
• Well they will help me be able to calculate numbers and read words that are unfamiliar to me.
• Mathematics and science will help to become a crime scene investigator.
• I believe academic courses prepare me for an entry-level job or a career by teaching me things that an American should know. If I did not know these things, it would be impossible for me to be successful in this limited lifetime I have. Money is power in this economy, in this life even. And the only way you can make money is to have knowledge. In my since of knowledge is not right and wrong. It’s too have the knowledge to achieve more than what everyone around you expects you to achieve. Having knowledge is a luxury in America that we all take for granted. Yet, for me I will think twice and except my luxuries. For I, will be the best I can be and achieve great things.
• It gives me more information.
• Yes, I do think academic courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career because all throughout life you’re going to be using each one of these skills to do a certain thing. Whether it’s adding subtracting, talking about the past, using medicine and etc. Each course is very important.
• Because academic courses help on any entry or job level we should know about jobs.
• It helps me learn what I need to know to get into collage.
• They allow you to know how to speak, and do your job correctly.
• I think this because a lot of these jobs are starting to need more education.
• Because with math you probably couldn’t get a job. And I say that because with some jobs (you) need to know math.
• For example with math, I want to be a beautician, I can’t say math won’t benefit me because it does. When I’m tending to customer, I will most definitely need math when coloring cutting and doing other things that particular area. Science also benefits me because science and math involve each other. Without one you probably wouldn’t have the other. With social studies I don’t quite know anything I would need or English either. Other than teaching other kids or telling them correct way to do things when speaking to others and doing homework.
• Because, these are thing that you will have to have in everyday jobs.
• Because if you get a job involving those subjects and you don’t know what to do, your out of luck.
• Yes, because I want to be a lawyer and even though some people might not think all those academic courses don’t apply in the job career I want to take it does. It plays a big part in becoming a lawyer.
• I am planning to become a Orthodontist, I will have to use all of these academic courses too become a good Orthodontist.
• These courses will help me with my designing job. Math would help me by measuring the fits for the outfits. Science would help me with if the outfit is gonna fit with there weight. English is gonna help me by finding out a perfect name for my design. Social studies can help me with going to other countries and seeing what they wear.
• Academic courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career because you must know these things to do your job.
• Because it can be difficult in the military.
• Yes because usually at an entry-level there will be a lot of mathematics and English. And having these academic courses will prepare for whatever the job or career asks for.
• They teach you skills that you might need one day in life.
• I think so because in some jobs, you need to know how to talk to customers. I believe that in math, some places need to know how to do quick math.
• I may have a job where I need to do mathematics, science, English, social studies this is why it is important.
• Because it prepares you.
• I will still have to use these academics in the career I choose.
• They teach you basic life skills you could use in many simple jobs.
• They teach you the many things that we need to know.
• Academic courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career because, if you get a job more than likely you will use at least one of the courses that you have learned through the years at your job.
• You get a head start in learning if you wanna go into college.
• Yes because you will have to do them at your job.
• Yes they do prepare you entry-level job or a career.
• Yes, because you have to use correct grammar and have good brain development when working at job.
• You need to be able to use English, Math, and Science or else you won't be able to do most of the common day activities but you need to learn more.
• You use math almost everywhere.
• English prepare you for an entry-level job or career because they would want someone who know and can speak proper English.
• I believe that our classes are preparing us for our future. our teachers are teaching us ever thing that we need to go on to college or any where else.
• Well because when you grow up (you) are doing English or mathematics you are still going to have to do that. that is why you go to school because the place you are going to be working at revolves around school and school work thats why you have to learn in school to make good grades and pass the high school and go to collage.
• Because you will have to use those skills everyday.
• In all grades we are learning the same thing we have learned since 4th grade. In this point I'm in 8th grade and re-learning how to add and subtract (including algebra.) This is the same in English we are reading book we won’t need later on in our life like the Hunger Games and White willy. Science I think we are learning more because I did not know all the atomic charts until I finished second quarter. In social studies we aren't learning anything since most this stuff we cover in 4th and 5th grade. We are basically repeating stuff which makes it difficult to pass the reason why is because they teach us in a way that is harder to understand.
• Yes, because (you) need to know how to add money n things like that.
• If you wok at a job dealing with adding money math can help you.
• I think it prepare me for a job or a career because you might need all of these things for your job.
• Yes Mathematics, science, English, social studies help me prepare for an entry-level job or a career because with out those subjects then we would all just be done and we would not have a job to take care of our families. So yes.
• Yes because I need to know how to do my taxes and how to manage my money for when I become a lawyer. I also need a strong vocabulary. The other school things I don’t believe I need to become a lawyer.

• Why? I have strong values, I don’t need to explain my answer.

• Because you need math in baseball & in the military.

• They teach you important skills.

• You use math everyday.

• I really don’t know if it does help me.

• Yes and No because it depends on the job you want.

• It looks good on your resume and will help you get a decent job

• They teach you.

• Because you will use it everyday.

• I need to know how to teach kids for whatever subject I teach. I need to know math for an everyday life kind of situation.

• A small job that you do so little in, like getting the workers coffee of work, those subjects don’t really prepare you.

• Most the stuff we learn in science I will never use in a real life situation.

• I think that with those courses we will use them in our daily life.

• I think that some of the courses I am taking like Geometry are useless and I will not use it again.

• Any job you are going to have when you are older requires knowing at least one of those courses so you need them to prepare you.

• They teach us the material we need to know for our future.

• Because I want to play football.

• It depends on what job you take.

• You have to know what to do with money so you obviously need to know your math.

• They do not teach how to do basic job duties. Such as fill out paperwork, make out a check, and other job activities you need to know today.

• Because you use math and English everyday sometime science and social studies

• You need these to succeed.

• Because the things being taught aren’t things I really need to know unless I want to go into that certain field. Like Geometry.

• Because they give you practical skills you need for a career.

• Because it’s teaching you how the real world going to be that’s why I do my best pay (attention) and (obey) my (elders) so that’s my (opinion).

• Yes because (you) can’t grow up know nothing because you need knowledge.

• Yes because when your in the RN you will have to know all of this in order for your to succeed in the Business.

• Yes, because you will no something about you history and culture math will get you prepared for like construction jobs.
• How, because you have to know those subjects in order for you to go to college and get your G.E.D and for you to have a job or career.

• Yes because if you don't know mathematics, science, English, social studies you will not know how to do any thing.

• Yes because it gets you ready for the real life and you never know when you'll have to use these subjects to help you out.

• Yes, because when you get ready for college you would know these subjects doing a test.

• Learn more about the world, history, math to show me how I can use tax and other helpful things I can use, and help me better speaker.

• I think math helps a lot. We use that in almost every job. Science comes important sometimes maybe about how Darwin did his theory or it shows how things work and about the science life. Social Studies not at all social studies tells me about the history of the old days that doesn't help today. But showing tax and the declaration of independents. And how government works when we get older we know how our economy works. Also English yes that teaches us the right way to speak and talk and write.

• I want to do good in school.

• Yes, because I like English!!!

• It prepare you to have a high school diploma or a college education, to be able to get a job or a career. so yes you need to have your academics courses, so you will be able to have a job or a career.

• Because early on in life you will need those skills for a career or job.

• It will help me for my future careers and jobs, like a scientist, or teacher, but without these academic courses, it will be rough to start my career and job.

• Yes I do, because mathematics, science, English, and social studies is a part of life. Most of every thing you do is dealing with these four courses.

• YES ALL SUBJECT IS PART OF LIFE MOEST THINGS I MIGHT DO CONCERN MATH READING SCIENCE SOCAIL STUDY.

• Because if I ever decide to work at a bank or anything then I'll be dealing with money and money deals with counting and counting is mathematics.

• BY GETTING ME A GOOD JOB

• I said yes Because when you're out on your own you'll need to know math to count money, English to use correct grammar, social studies to learn about history, Science to know about animals, plants, and human Functions so you'll have to know all of these subjects in order to get somewhere in life.

• Mathematics is used a lot more then you would think during everyday life. English teaches good grammar and will help you know how to make a good resume or business letter. Science can teach you the about the world so you know more when you need to. Social studies teaches you about the history of the world. I think it's important to know about your country's history.

• It help because if you didn't have nothing to learn it would have been twice as hard in college.

• Why I say yes is because you will never know what kind of job you might apply for so you need to be prepared for any job that come your way.

• You need to know specific things like anatomy if you wanted to be a physical therapist.
• I believe most every thing we learn is going to have a n impact on our lives somehow. Whether its at work or home.
• Because, I want to become a Scientist and the courses mathematics and science will be the base of that particular field.
• You need some of the skills and techniques you learn from these courses but not all of them.
• Because it can become where you can may have a job as a bank teller at a bank and have to count the money at the bank so it is a career.
• Yes, Everything that will happen in your life.
• Financing, Reading instructions & things with everyday life.
• I Think that academic courses prepare me for an entry-level job or career because when you have a job you need to know all your academic courses because you might need it.
• YES BECAUSE ITS CAN HELP USE LEARN MORE.
• Academic courses provide us with general information we must know to be successful in a work environment.
• They have you work on needed skills for the workforce.
• To learn the human body and medicines.
• You need to be taught these things while you are young so you will be prepared for the work force.
• I want to be a elementary teacher.
• Yes, because they prepare us for the future.
• BECAUSE YOU NEED TO NOW MATH IN THE REAL WORLD AND HOW IT WORKS.
• All of these subjects have a big role in most jobs today.
• It gets you ready for learning new skills on the job.
• Even though I may not realize it now, all the studying, essays, projects, and assignments will help me better communicate my thoughts and ideas to others and the information I learn will cross paths with me later in life.
• Math and science lay a foundation for most jobs while English and social studies teach you basic skills and understanding of concepts.
• If you don’t have the skill to do the job how will (you) understand how to do the job.
• Yes, because they are your main courses.
• I really need most help on English and Science and also with speaking little bit louder .I want to be a lawyer.
• Science will be used in the job I plan to have and math is used in my every day life.
• I’ll understand better.
• It can help you in life.
• It depends on what kind of job your getting.
• I think it does for some jobs.
• Everything has to do with these courses, some jobs that you want to take require these skills that you choose for your career.
• They help you get ready for the real world.
• You need math to do cashier jobs. Social studies to know your history. Science to know what is good and not good for you.
• It depends on what job you chose.
• I think the academic courses prepare me for any major job that I want to work in because it helps me make my job more easy, also we usually have to use math and science in our jobs these days.
• I think that they prepare you by teaching you things that you will need to know in the outside world when you get a job.
• The academic courses help us be prepared in a level job by teaching us lessons.
• Well it really depends on what you want to be or what you want to work in but mathematics personally helps in what ever job you get.
• Math prepare you because if you work at a job and they have you at the cash register you got to know how much change to give them back and you gotta know how to add and subtract.
• Well I only think math and English does.
• Depending on what your looking into. I think more schools should offer more electives for art.
• Without out math, I can not be a nurse (anesthetist) because I have to measure and take precautions.
• They show you how to succeed in the work place, whether by calculating something or just having good diction.
• By teaching how to learn the real rules of life.
• Because math is really all you need to go through life.
• You might need them when you enroll in the career you will study.
• The way they help you is a lot of jobs have math, science, English, and social studies.
• It can help me in many different ways in life.
• It teaches us skills we need to do jobs.
• Because it help me for college.
• I’m actually thinking of taking jobs at Game Stop and/or Publix. so I wouldn’t really need those things all that much. but it does help make you smarter.
• They give you essential skills that you need to complete simple tasks.
• They help you with basic skills, such as problem solving, grammar, and speaking skills.
• These subjects will help me, because I want to be a dentist. So, science maybe math, but English I will need, because I will be talking to Adults.
• Yes because I want to be a children’s doctor and you will have to know math and science.
• We won’t use them all. The only reason why we would use them all is if we become a teacher. I think we should go to school for what we are doing after. Elem is a different story. same with middle school. but high school should be based on what you need to get better with the choices your chose for collage which should be where you get better for what you do. If we will be going as a teacher for math then what is the point of having 4 years of English. We won’t be using them. proper grammar should be one class so we know how to write or type. After that it’s pointless
• Some do but some I will never use in real life.
• These subjects help ready us for our future job or career by being a part of our everyday grammar, math skills, and knowledge of history and science.
• They help you learn your basic materials that can be useful in almost any job. If someone were to leave high school undecided about what they want to do, learning these subjects can help broaden your options.

• I think the basics do, but not going too into depth with it. I don’t think any jobs will need for you to know the Pythagorean Theorem and know how to label a sentence.

• You need to correct English to talk to people.

• They each you how to count money and how to talk to people in the job that you won’t to do.

• Yes because the company that you want to work for requires a certain amount of math credits or math course you could have taken that in high school and be ready for start the job.

• By teaching you the skills you may need.

• They teach you fundamentals for basically everything.

• English helps with grammar.

• Yes it does prepares me for further things and situations in the future.

• I think math and English will help you. I don’t think social studies or science will help you as much.

• Every subject is important for a job in some type of small way.

• Math and English do. I don’t think social studies and science are really needed to do an entry-level job. You really just need basic academic courses.

• The academic courses prepare me on how much I know already and how much more I have to prepare to learn for.

• Helps me to think more.

• Some of them no, for they have nothing to do with my life or my job I want in the future.

• Some of the stuff you use everyday but a lot of it is pointless.

• Basic things you need to know.

• It’s repetitive and it’s all memorization, not teaching.

• The jobs nowadays require us to have experience first before they consider hiring us so a lack of experience is what fails us. We always have too much homework to get a job and get this done like help us support our family so less homework would be nice.

• They teach you how to count in math. English teaches you proper grammar. science you learn how to mix things together.

• I think school teaching us Math, English, and Social Studies does help us. Spending a little more time on things such as learning trades, budgeting, and parenting would benefit us more.

• Math is the biggest thing that everyone will need because no matter where you go you will always have to deal with numbers.

• Because we are wasting time in classes we don’t need.

• You don’t have to be academically smart to sell someone a car, house, boat, clothes, or shoes.

• You then know the information that is needed to successfully do your job.

• I want to play football.

• Depends on the teacher and the job you want to do.
• I think that only mathematics helps you with your future life. You use math everyday. In other peoples case I think that what career they choose will help them.

• Mathematics and science prepare me for my career as a neonatologist.

• These courses prepare us for an entry-level job or career by helping us to learn knowledge needed for these things.

• Because every job requires some form of knowledge and English and math is the bases for all jobs.

• You must have these courses, most of which you will not need for your job in life, to get into college to get a degree in your field.

• It depends on the career - in an engineering or technical career, math and science are very useful. English and social studies usually don't help much.

• They help you.

• They help you understand how to apply it to real life situations.

• You learn the basic education which is always helpful.

• I do think some subjects like math and science help however I do not see how history will help me in the future.

• I plan on working a trade.
Appendix G
Responses from Students, Question 7
Question: Do you think career and technical education (CTE) courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career?

- It gitts you ready to start at a office right outside of high school.
- Teaches you the basics.
- They prepare you for the job you are training for in the field you like and need them to learn your job, much less know what it is.
- The courses prepare you for the actual world. They teach you skills you will need in the world, unlike a lot of the required classes. Math in school doesn’t teach you how to do taxes or how to get a virus off your computer.
- A lot of the career and technical classes teach information that is vital to certain fields.
- It gives us little experience before fully committing to that certain career.
- If you are doing something that you like, the career and technical education is helping you in that field.
- Yes, because it helps you understand more about the job you want to do, and if you go to college you will be trained and prepares you for what you will be doing on the job.
- Because it gives you a little information about what you may want to do.
- In my opinion, the tech school is more of an experience that you can have to see what you like. It helps you see what kind of jobs or career fields are out there, and if you really think you want to do it, then you can take the class, and you will know if that's what you want to do for a career or not.
- Some give you the experience you need and some give you the skills you will need.
- By giving you hands on training.
- It gets you ready for the career field you are planning to go in.
- Yes, because you learn things that you don’t learn in any other school.
- If say you are wanting to go to school for a carpenter you would want to attend CTE to make sure you want to go into this course after high school.
- If you didn't go over things you need for technical education you wouldn't know in college.
- Well, sometimes it might. Like I said you never know what your boss might throw at you, you might have to do a job on the computer. Maybe type letters.
- I believe that career and technical education courses can prepare you for an entry-level job or career because if you were to go into a different type of career that does not involve further study of academic courses, you would need to have an education in this type of course.
- They teach you skills.
- They can prepare you for specific kinds of jobs where you will need a certain skill.
- Theses courses give you the information you need for a job or career.
- It gives you yet another chance to learn and understand what is needed to live successfully
- They are extremely stupid.
- They help you learn the hands on things.
- Some jobs require for you to have this.
• Gives you hands on experience.
• Yes because it shows you what to expect.
• I have no need for a trade skill.
• If you are in a technical field.
• You need to know how to use technology for some jobs.
• Everyone should know how to work and/or work with a computer.
• Anything we do in school is preparing us for adults and life itself.
• If you are going into something with those types of knowledge then you’ll know what your doing.
• It will give you skills that you will need later on.
• They teach us things like how to balance a check book, buy a car and how to prepare for a job interview.
• They teach you the things you need to get a job and what to do to be good at the job you choose.
• Anything we do in school will help us in someway in the future.
• Not as much as core classes.
• Many of the skill that are taught in BTA or CTE courses are already things that many have picked up over there years of being enrolled to a school.
• It is important because you can learn more than what you know now that will be held in the future.
• Yes
• No, not all jobs will require the skills taught.
• Teaches you skills you need to do a job.
• They explain life outside of education.
• It wont help office jobs.
• I really don’t know.
• Help you to know what to do and what not to do in an interview.
• They give you an opportunity to see what it takes to be on your own in the world.
• In a way I think they help I think we could do without them.
• We're learning things we need to know.
• They are not required for what I want to do.
• They would prepare you if you were going into one of the fields of work that would need you to take one of these courses.
• Help you be familiar with computers.
• They help you understand more about certain areas in the workforce.
• Teaches us how to use different software.
• Teach you a better understanding.
• It lets us know how to respond, work, and act in the work force. It also gives us knowledge in certain softwares that will be useful in our careers.
They help you learn the knowledge and prepare you for the real world when out of high school.
It helps you prepare in many ways.
Once again we still have to make charts for the career that I want to do so technology is a big yes.
It helps us get ready for when we do get jobs.
No because for an entry-level job you may not have to have CTE to prepare you for your job in the future.
Budgeting and project preparedness.
Tell you how do your job.
It helps show you what to wear for an interview, workplace behavior, tone, and more.
Helps you know what your doing on your job.
They increase my skills.
If you work at a computer you will need to know how to type properly so you can get the job done fast.
It prepares you by what you are wanting to do after high school so you want be confused.
More knowledge.
They give you helpful information and ideas you wouldn't get elsewhere.
These courses give you heads up on what the job site could be like and how to get a job.
Because it gives students a real experience of what their career will be like.
It helps us decide what career to pick.
They help teach you how you need to plan and manage your future.
It teaches you what to expect in the future and how to deal with things.
Yes, because you can learn the basics of things you want to do and familiarize yourself with it
They teach what you needed to know for the job you are looking forward to getting.
CTE does the same as academic courses: expand my knowledge about pretty much everything.
So you may be ready for things like job interviews and other things like that.
It teaches you how and what to expect for when you get into college and what kind of college you want to go to. And it helps with what you want to do when you get our of college.
CTE courses help develop lots of different skills including skills that you need for a job.
Because when you get a job or apply for a job you will already know some simple things
No, because you don’t have to have a technical education to get a job.
It prepares us for jobs.
They help you prepare for a job.
CTE helps because it prepares you for the future; for your future.
They can help you choose the career you want to take part in.
They further prepare you for the workforce.
Plans in the future.
I WANT TO BE IN THE NAVY.
• Because I will not be learning to work on computers.
• It help you learn how to dress properly.
• These courses give you the skills required to perform well in the job place.
• They give you more hands on experience, rather than teaching you one thing and never explaining how to use it in the workforce.
• Just because they do.
• Because it helps organize what a person wants to do for a career.
• These classes provide instruction that can create a strong backbone for future employees.
• Gives you the basic skills for your chosen career.
• We do real life application.
• It prepares you for certain jobs.
• Yes because the show you what its like and allows you to see if its a career choice you would like to be in.
• It teaches me how to work with a group.
• I will need to work a computer.
• I think that this course will prepare you for a job or career because the higher your education the better job or career you will have.
• Yes because you need a career head start.
• I think that you have taken enough time to do it.
• They help prepare you because they show how it will be in the future so you will know what to do at an interview and jobs in the future.
• Because in my career I plan to do something big.
• Yes,because it also teaches you more than just the basics. It teaches you how to do well with technology and help you learns more informative things.
• They can boast your skills for things like job interviews, and other things like that.
• They help prepare me by letting me know what I will go through in the years to come.
• CTE (career technical education) helps prepare at a high level of a job or career by you being a future business leader of america and it helps you prepare for what you might have to face when you get a job or a career
• It helps you prepare for a life and makes it easier to get a job.
• Yes because if have a back up plan like being a car engineer just like mine then having a technical education will really give the jump start that I need.
• Yes,because if you have a job that you uses a computer all day then you will need to know how to use a computer.
• Everything prepare you for an entry-level job. Your career is important in your life if you want to a mechanic it is very important.
• All skills earned by CTE courses are eventually needed in entry-level jobs.
• I think they prepare me for an entry-level job or career. Technology can help you a lot in your job in life, so its helpful.
Career and Technical education help us learn about our interest, and what we want to do and be when we grown up.

- Career and technical education will prepare you for whatever job or career you choose. I believe this because if you do not take these courses people will recognize that. These courses will impact you and prepare you for whatever career you would like to engage yourself upon.
- I think no (because) it (isn’t helping) you for your job you doing.
- Well you need computers in numerous jobs.
- I cant be specific.
- I think yes because a career and technical education call teaches you how to work computers better and how to use different computers.
- They can help you choose the career you want to have.
- They are trying to get you a career because, so you can be successful in life.
- I think it prepares you for an entry-level job or career because you might need to prepare yourself for a job interview and you can just think back to CTE.
- Because you may need to use the computers.
- Because most jobs don’t use typing.
- I don’t think they prepare me specifically because I wont need to be around technical.
- Once again as I stated above, I think this class should be optional depending on what you would like to become in a working environment. But at the same time most jobs do require some type of computer technology skill.
- I think they do because we learn more about business and how the business industry works.
- Yes because they prepare you for the entry of the workforce.
- Yes I think career and technical courses prepare me for a entry-level for a job and career because when your at a job that consist of typing and working a computer . you will already know how work the computer.
- I just don’t think career and technical education courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career.
- Yes because, it will help me decide on the career or job interest for me.
- Yes, because when your dealing with technical its hands on.
- They teach you the basics of what to do.
- Anything that does not make you worst isn’t bad.
- These courses teach you how to operate a computer.
- The teacher shows us more of what we need to learn in order to be in technical industry. The teacher also helps us and guides us through the courses, so that we know what we are doing.
- Because some jobs tend to look for people who know how to type fast or learn quickly then others.
- We learn how to do things we will need to obtain a decent job.
- Education is everything. You need to be educated to get a job.
- The career and technical education will help me a lot on being a game software developer. The reason I can say this is because I would be on computers, cameras, televisions, anything that has something to do with my career and technology I will be applied that task.
• It all depend on what kind of career your getting. If your career is in math or technology than yea it will help your entry-level job or career.

• Yes because every wednesday we have to dress up for BTA. The reason we dress up is because she wants to prepare us for the future when we have to go to interviews, and etc. I think it’s a really good thing that we’re dressing up. It can help you a whole lot if you do what you suppose to do.

• They help you because they gives you more experience.

• I don’t want to have a technical job.

• Yes, because they show each job that interests you and teach you what to do and expect on the job.

• Technology is very important to your education and it is used all over the world.

• Yes, because the help you to work on the computer and to do almost anything now of days you are going to need to use technical and by the time I graduate there is going to be more stuff you need to do online or on a writing, program, or maybe even on the phone. The is why I think technical education (CTE) courses prepare you for an entry-level job or career.

• I think career and technical courses help you prepare your self for entry-level jobs and careers. these courses help you to learn the in’s and out’s of having a career. They teach you about what will happen in your life, and the obstacles you will have to pass in order to have a successful career.

• Yes and no because (you) may have a different career set and (you) might not need those that education and yes because (you) may need that education setting and the job your working at.

• I think CTE courses prepare you for entry-level job’s or career’s because it has a various variety of things you could do in order to prepare.

• It depends on what job you want to get.

• This is a class that prepares you for your future in my case I want to be a doctor so finding out every thing I need to know about it now will help in the long run. Plus this class is a mixture of all of the other classes put together.

• They help you see all the other courses you need to be taking or what you need to study more in school.

• I don’t really know about Career / technical courses. They help in a way. They can teach you how to go about yourselves at interviews or writing business letters and etc., but honestly if we didn’t have them it wouldn’t make a difference.

• Yes, I do because we might have to use something technical in the future. Technical classes will help to demonstrate what other classes won’t. It will break down the key things.

• It depends on what you apply for.

• Because they basically teach you exactly what its going to be like when you apply for a job and possibly get the job.

• It depends on Which job you apply for.

• They help you by everything you need, for to reach your goals.

• It will show me exactly how to do the job I plan to have when I am older.

• I myself, as you can see, is in a technical education course. These courses have my mind flowing with new ideas. I had always known what I wanted to do in life. Though, now I know how I am going to achieve it. My teacher has shown me ways of thinking like no other. I now know what to do at a job interview. The things I can possibly learn after are endless.

• It shows you how to dress if you trying to get a job.
• Yes, I do think this.

• I believe cte helps on any type of level. But when you want become some big in life you got to have your school education and college education.

• It helps me by knowing what to do in a career field.

• It allows you to be ahead in the business world.

• Yes because it will help me with the challenges it will have to take later on in my career

• Yes because it can help many people.

• I say yes and no because it depends on what your career is and what subject your dealing with. More than likely one will benefit you more than the other.

• Yes, I do think career and technical education do prepare you for an career. Because if you have a career that is in that type of field of work the will help you big time.

• Because when you get older and you didn't know how to do something CTE could have gave you some guidance.

• Yes, because it helps me get ready for the real world when I finally have that career that I have always wanted.

• A CTE class helps you prepare for an entry-level job or career by having higher grade level work, this prepares you too be outstanding in the next years’ CTE course.

• Yes, because you need does education to get a good career. To me its important for my education.

• I think that CTE prepares me for jobs and careers for both entry-level and higher level jobs and careers.

• Yes because it will be difficult to know what to do in the marines and this can help me out a lot.

• If you have a career and technical education you will most likely get a better entry career or job. so its like preparing you for a head start.

• I believe so because it helps you learn to type, work with powerpoints, and things like that.

• Yes because, you still learn something. You learn what you might want to be when you're older. You can learn how much you will earn on certain jobs. It gives you chances to prepare for you're future.

• CTE courses help me learn more about careers.

• It prepares you for any job dealing with technology.

• Yes these courses teach us very important things.

• No CTE courses wont prepare you for an entry-level job or career because, you might not get the information that you need until you get late into your school years.

• No because you have to go to school before going into college.

• Yes because it teaches you about careers and jobs.

• Yes it does prepare you for an entry-level job or career.

• Yes , because if you work at a business program, such as Total System you have to use technology.

• After taking the time to learn as much as you can I think you would be ready.

• It is a business class.

• I think it prepare me because I can get a better job or career. I also think it prepare me because it teaches me how to do things I never heard of or never thought of.
• Well how I know how it will prepare me is why do we have a computer which is a technology class well some jobs have computers that you are going to have to be doing work off of. If you don't know how to work a computer because you did not practice in middle and through high and you didn't do any work you are not going to be able to get a job that is why you have to learn in middle and even in the technology because your day will come and show the world what you in learned in school.

• Because you the things you do in the class people do those thing at jobs.

• It tells us how we should dress for an interview which I didn't know.

• Teaches you how to type.

• It helps you work on business letters and thank you letters and all and how to feel out a application and tell you how to head your letters if you do one.

• Yes because you will need a technical education to be able to get a job.

• It helps you get a better understanding of careers.

• Yes it prepares me for a career because I want to go to college and become a doctor and order for me to do that I would need to take to take Career Technical Education or (CTE).

• I don't think I need a CTE courses to become a lawyer.

• Nope...its like a spork, its a bad spoon and a bad fork, in the end its useless.

• I am not quite sure yet but I know it will.

• They allow you to learn a trade.

• I really don’t know if it does help me.

• If you work with computers than yes.

• I don’t know much about this.

• They teach you what the basics.

• Because you will need to know it later in life.

• Career Prep really helps me out with learning how resumes are set up and how to use technical devices.

• Not all careers require technical abilities for the job.

• You learn about new technology workers are using.

• Most of us already know how to work a computer, and common sense about our career life. I think we should be able to take the class if we need it, but if not I think we should be able to take a different class. I don't think it will be necessary to learn about file conversions and how many gigabytes on a disk drive.

• Because I want to play football.

• They teach you a lot of different job activities you use in every day jobs.

• You need them in life.

• Because they’re showing you had the real-world is and teaching skills that are necessary.

• Yes because it’s helping learn exciting things about countries and the solar system and other great thing.

• Yes because you have to work.
• Because your will need to know everything about your career before you go to college and start your work.

• I think yes because it will prepare you for a good job.

• How, because if you want to be a mechanical you will have to go to college and study for technical education in order for you to be a mechanical.

• Yes because you may want to go technical college.

• Yes because you have to learn these things anyways so you never know what kind of job you might enroll in so just be ready for whatever you have to do.

• Yes, because some people need and job and a career.

• Helps me do better in life in learn more about text.

• It taught me stuff that I need to know in the big world I didn’t know until I took CTE.

• I don’t do technical stuff but I want to work in the wood.

• Cause I like it.

• If you don’t have an education you will not be able to get a job or have a career, so yes I think you do need it.

• In life we all will do thing that we don’t plan on doing for a living and we should do our best to learn things while we can.

• It will prepare me for my upcoming job, and career, it helps me figure on what jobs or my interest in career are good to work for.

• Yes I do, because if you are getting a job in technical engineering you will be prepared.

• YES BECAUSE ITS A LOT OF JOBS DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY ITS PREPARING USE FOR FUTURE.

• BECAUSE GOOD EDUCATION.

• Because (you) have to be prepared.

• Yes, so when you go to college or other places you might have to use the techniques taught using technology there and you will already be prepared for it and already know the basics and wouldn’t have to have anybody to show you how to do certain things.

• CTE courses help prepare for real life situations that you will need to handle.

• I say yes, because it help college wont you in it get you ready for the real life.

• Yes because there will be lines of jobs there for you to check out to see if they interest you.

• You need to know how to work modern technology.

• Learning about some of the skills in these classes are not helpful in real life.

• I have never heard of that.

• A little but we don’t do stuff like that here.

• Because if you’re a business person it will help a lot.

• I think that because in the future something might happen at your job or career and your co-workers might not know what to do but you might do because you took that course.

• IDK

• CTE courses provide us with computer and professional skills needed in the workplace.
• These classes help prepare you in technology fields.
• You will need them for the work force.
• They help us plan for the future.
• I DON’T REALLY KNOW.
• They prepare you for what your career will be like.
• It gives you a more hands on approach to learning about joining the workforce.
• The skills obtained would help me do my job more efficiently and function better in life.
• That’s what they’re for.
• Idk
• If some one wanted to be an mechanic that would help them be the best they can at that job and it will look good on there job application.
• Career education teaches you how the job is and like in the real world and also help you decide what you want to be in the future.
• You will have something to fall back on.
• Technical stuff helps with building.
• Helps you decide.
• Yes,because they help us prepare how to act for future job applications.
• I think that they do prepare you by teaching you how to work a computer, how to be proficient with Microsoft Word and other programs. I also think that if you get a job where you have to do office work and work with computers, then you will know everything that you need to know.
• Yes, They Prepared us by teaching us lessons that we are going to need in the outside world that we live in.
• Well for career education I personally think that helps you a lot because I gives a idea of how the real really is and makes you think twice about the decisions your going to make.
• Because if you take a typing class and if you get a job that require typing you would already be good with computers.
• Because they have classes that may deal with what you are going to do in the future.
• Without CTE, I wouldn't know which career is right for me.
• The course simply prepares you mostly for whats out there in the real world.
• Kinda
• I don’t think so because its not what I want to do when I grow up.
• It teaches you skill you need in the work force.
• I know it's supposed to help, but I feel as though I'm being pressured to get a really good job and go to college, even when I don't want to go to college.
• They focus more on skills that are beneficial to have and allow you to explore something you are interested in.
• I feel that they help you prepare you with a basic understanding of what you need to do a job and how you do it. As well as how to apply for a job.
• It’s all stupid.
• Maybe... I think I might because of the equipment I will use while being a dentist.
• Children’s doctor uses computers in their career.
• Many jobs and careers nowadays deal with technology and career knowledge so it's good to be prepared in those fields.
• Technology is becoming a huge part of our society, so learning more about computers can help prepare for the future.
• They teach you how to handle certain problems.
• It teaches you how to solve problems.
• Helps you figure out what would be best.
• They prepare you for manual labor.
• It prepares me for me future.
• You learn job specific tasks and actual experience.
• It does help because it helps you reach higher levels.
• Yes, because it prepares you and teaches you things about getting a career.
• The CTE courses prepare me in knowing how to handle situations, what to do in the situations, and prepare my people skills.
• Teaches me how to work with technical stuff.
• The basic things you need to know for your career.
• Its career education so its going to show the basic things you will need to know about your career.
• Everything you learn in school is supposed to lead to having a job.
• Because I've never had the option to be in one of those classes.
• No because they teach you everything you need to learn.
• It teaches you and also tells you what you will be doing and how to do it.
• They give you people skills needed to succeed.
• I don’t know.
• Because I don’t think that would have anything with me playing football.
• It depends on what career you are going to take, some may be all technical, while others just work in offices and things like that.
• Career courses allow you to research information about careers that might interest you. Technical courses teaches you about technology and software you may need in college or your future job.
• CTE courses can prepare you for some entry-level jobs or careers but they will not prepare you for everything.
• Because these courses narrow the learn to specific jobs that the student may be interested in after college.
• They give courses on specific skills and literally all they are for is to set you up for a career.
• They help you learn more about technical.
• You learn about computers.
• You learn about computers and computers are everywhere today.
Appendix H
Responses from Teachers/Administrators, Question 23
“What career and technical education programs do you teach in your school division?”

Responses: 119

- animation
- Education and Training
- Inclusion Assistant by hiring, but am certified special education teacher
- Commerce and Information Technology
- PLTW Pathway to Engineering
- Career Prep B, Finance, Law
- Career Preparedness Career Clusters BTA Elementary Computer Class Yearbook
- Education and training, child development and services
- Engineering & Drafting
- Transition/Job Coach
- Agriscience
- Health Science
- Collision Repair Technology
- engineering
- STEM
- STEM
- Business Administration
- Health Science
- Business Education
- Guidance
- Library Media Specialist
- Career education, work experience, and transition skills teaching in class at the Alabama School for the Deaf
- Career Preparedness
- Advanced Business Technical Applications, NAF courses, and Cooperative Education
- Health Science and PLTW Biomedical
- retired elementary
- Automotive Service
- FACS
- Health Science
- Welding
- Health Science
- Business and Marketing
- FACS
- Commerce & Information Technology
- Health Science
- Agriculture
- HEALTH SCIENCES
- Health Science
- CIT
- Marketing & Sales
- Automotive Technology
- Cooperative Education
- CIT
- Health Science
- Business Education
- Business Education
- Math
- BTA
- Guidance Counselor
- Business Technology Applications and Career Cluster Tech I
- Career Preparedness, Personal Finance, Technical Education
- Drafting/Engineering
- Family and Consumer Science
- Health Science
- science
- Health Science
• Marketing
• FACS
• health science
• Health Science
• Information Technology
• Health Science
• NA
• Business Marketing
• Math
• Business Education
• job readiness
• Business Education/Finance
• Family and Community Services
• Family Studies and Career Services * Child Development/Parenting * Foods/Nutrition * FACS
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• Family & Consumer Sciences
• Business
• Business Education
• Agriscience
• Early Childhood Education
• math
• I am an English teacher
• Health Science
• Agriscience
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• Business Education-Finance Pathway
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• Business Marketing
• Career Preparedness, Marketing, Cooperative Education
• Career Preparedness
• Business, Agriscience, Family & Consumer Sciences
• Commerce & Information Technology
• Business Education
• Career Preparedness BTA Workforce Essentials Work Based Learning/Cooperative Education
• Finance
• I am an instructional aide
• Agriscience
• 4th grade
• I am an elementary school teacher
• automotive technology
• Agriscience Technology-Plant Pathways
• none-librarian
• Family Studies and Community Services
• Family and Consumer Sciences - Teen Discoveries and Connections
• Agri-Construction
• Agriscience Education
• Agriscience
• Aquascience, Agriscience, and Ag Communications
• Family and Consumer Sciences Career Preparedness
• Ag Science
• agriscience plant systems
• agriculture
• Agricultural Education
• Family and Consumer Science
• Human Services: Teen Discoveries, Teen Connection
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• Family and Consumer Sciences
• Family and Consumer Sciences middle school program.
• Fish and wildlife management, environmental management, and forestry
• Food and Beverage service
• Fashions, FACS, Interior Design, Career Preparedness, Food and Nutrition, Child Development
• Human Services: I teach Foundation course, Fashion, Parenting