

# Middle School Career & Technical Education

## Background

In April 2009, Governor Gregoire signed into law [Second Substitute Senate Bill 5676](#), Math and Science Instruction — Middle Schools. This legislation provides enhanced funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) middle school programs which receive approval from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

## Qualifying for CTE Enhanced Funding

CTE funding for OSPI approved middle school CTE programs is calculated using the same formula as the current secondary vocational formulas. The district average staff mix will be used in this calculation. School districts will be paid monthly in accordance with [RCW 28A.510](#).

Middle School courses that do not meet the following standards will not be approved or be eligible for enhanced CTE funding:

1. Provide a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.
2. Have an integrated curriculum of academic content and a CTE exploratory component.
3. Have CTE frameworks that are developmentally appropriate for middle school. This includes a concentration of grade level appropriate (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) science, math, educational technology and/or computer science academic standards.
4. Include safety, employability and leadership adapted to middle school development.
5. Be taught by instructors holding current CTE certification in the appropriate content area.
6. Use inquiry and project-based learning environments to develop innovative thought.
7. Integrate from the ground up- they cannot have science, math, technology, and engineering "grafted" onto an existing CTE courses and be renamed STEM.

## Middle School CTE Course Framework and Approval Reminders

Middle School CTE courses/course frameworks are required to:

1. Include Exploratory courses only
2. Meet all CTE Program Standards
3. Only list the specific standards that will be taught and assessed
4. Be developed with grade level appropriate (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade learning standards) which means they will not qualify to earn high school credit
5. The grade level academic standards must be able to meet 2 of 4 STEM standards and each unit should adequately assess the STEM Standards.
6. Middle schools are unable to adopt CTE Equivalency courses per [RCW 28A.230.097](#). The statute's scope is limited to high school-level education and does not extend equivalency course authority to middle school programs.
7. Middle School CTE courses are required to meet the same assurances as high school CTE programs, including but not limited to:
  - a. [RCW 28A.700.010](#) and [RCW 28A.700.020](#)
  - b. Extended learning (CTSO or Leadership Equivalency)
  - c. Currently approved framework(s)
  - d. Skills Gap data
  - e. Advisory Committee approval

