



**CAREER, TECHNICAL and AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
GUIDANCE**

---

**Offering High School Career Cluster  
Foundation Courses in Middle School**

# Guidance

## Offering High School Career Cluster Foundation Courses in Middle School

### A. INTRODUCTION

This Guidance document can be used to assist school districts in developing local policy for awarding high school units of credit for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) foundation courses offered in the middle grades that are based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12.

### B. REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for awarding a high school unit of credit to middle school students are indicated in the following section of State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15  
AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT  
AND/OR GRADES:

#### (2) REQUIREMENTS.

##### (b) Awarding Units of Credit for Courses Taken in Georgia Public Schools

1. Local boards of education shall award units of credit only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education.
2. Local boards of education may award units of credit for courses offered in the middle grades that are based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education.
3. Local boards of education shall not award units of credit for courses in which instruction is based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades K-8.

### C. CLARIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS

- References to middle school or middle grades in this Guidance document include grades 6-8.
- References to high school or high school grades in this Guidance document include grades 9-12.
- Teacher qualifications for teaching in CTAE fields are those established by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC). Information regarding certification requirements for secondary educators must be obtained from PSC.
- The “foundation” course in CTAE is defined as the first of three courses that constitute the pathway and is considered a pre-requisite to the other two courses in the sequence.

## **D. INSTRUCTION**

1. Middle school teachers who teach 9-12 CTAE foundation courses for high school units of credit are required to meet the Georgia Professional Standards Commission certification definition of “highly qualified” in the CTAE field.
2. High school course credit opportunities can be provided to middle school students at either the middle school classroom and lab setting or at the high school classroom and lab setting.
3. Middle school teachers, highly qualified to teach the specific foundation 9-12 CTAE secondary level courses for high school units of credit, should participate in the same professional learning as high school teachers of the specific career cluster pathway foundation course standards and industry expectations.
4. Middle school teachers, highly qualified to teach secondary level courses, should collaborate with high school career cluster pathway teachers to teach foundation courses based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12.
5. Middle school teachers, highly qualified to teach secondary level courses, should be actively involved in the local school system’s CTAE Advisory Committee for the cluster area of the foundation course at the high school.
6. Middle school classrooms and labs for foundation courses, based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12, must meet safety, facility space, equipment, and lab expectations as provided in the high school setting. The local school system should consider developmental readiness, and the fact that certain hands-on skills required in these courses may become a safety issue for younger or unprepared students.
7. CTAE foundation courses, based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12, should follow the high school foundation course scope and sequence of standards.
8. Middle school instructional time must equal what has been established by the local system for teaching the courses at the high school level. For example, if high school is on block schedule and requires students to participate in 150 hours of instruction to earn units of credit, the participation at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level should be the same.

## **E. COURSES**

List of high school foundation courses eligible to be taught in middle school:

- 1) Audio & Video Technology Film I
- 2) Basic Agriculture Science
- 3) Basic Maintenance and Light Repair
- 4) Early Childhood Education I
- 5) Food, Nutrition & Wellness
- 6) Foundations of Engineering and Technology
- 7) Foundations of Marine Engine Technology

- 8) Foundations of Energy Technologies
- 9) Foundations of Electronics
- 10) Foundations of Interior Design
- 11) Fundamentals of Aerospace
- 12) Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety
- 13) Introduction to Collision Repair
- 14) Introduction to Consumer Relations
- 15) Introduction to Culinary Arts
- 16) Introduction to Government and Public Administration
- 17) Introduction to Graphics and Design
- 18) Introduction to Healthcare Science
- 19) Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- 20) Introduction to Personal Care Services
- 21) Introduction to Business and Technology
- 22) Introduction to Digital Technology
- 23) Introduction to Drafting and Design
- 24) Introduction to Mechatronics
- 25) Logistics Fundamentals
- 26) Marketing Principles

## **F. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1) Can “Exceeding the Bar” points be earned on the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) for providing opportunities for students enrolled in middle school to earn high school units of credit?

Response: Yes. Middle schools can earn “Exceeding the Bar” points towards their annual CCRPI score report by providing opportunities for students enrolled in middle school to earn high school units of credit.

- 2) What is the FTE funding level for middle school students who take the CTAE foundation lab course in a middle school setting?

Response: Middle school students are not able to earn “K” weight for enrolling in a CTAE lab course for funding purposes. All middle school students earn the same middle school program funding regardless of the educational setting.

- 3) What is the FTE funding level if a middle-school students enrolls at a high school to take a CTAE lab course?

Response: Middle school students are not able to earn “K” weight for enrolling in a CTAE lab course for funding purposes. All middle school students earn the same middle school funding regardless of the educational setting.

- 4) Is the high school’s CCRPI Indicators 9 and 10 affected by students who take a CTAE foundation course in middle school?

Response: Yes. It can affect a high school’s CCRPI score on both indicators. A local system should track the success rate of students who take the foundation course in middle school versus students taking the course in the high school setting.