Career and Technical Education (CTE) Redesign Frequently Asked Questions

Why is MCPS redesigning their CTE programs?

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has redesigned all CTE programs. MCPS is required to redesign its offerings to align with MSDE requirements. The new redesign programs of study will take effect during the school year 2027-2028.

Why is MSDE redesigning CTE?

MSDE is changing to align with the new National Career Clusters® Framework which includes clusters like Healthcare & Human Services, Digital Technology, and Arts, Entertainment & Design, among others. Each career cluster is divided into related CTE programs that outline specific occupations and educational opportunities.

Is the redesign only applicable to Grade 9 students starting in the school year 2027-2028?

No. All high school students enrolled in a CTE course for the first time during the 2027-2028 school year, will be able to access the new redesign program and course sequence.

What does this mean for students who are currently in CTE programs?

Students who are currently enrolled in CTE programs will continue in their program of study and with the currently set coursework in the sequence.

What CTE Programs of Study are being added?

New programs are being added in the Digital Technology Career Cluster (formerly known as Information Technology), which will include programs of study in Cybersecurity, and Machine Learning and Data Science.

What CTE programs are no longer available to students?

- College and Career Development (CCRD) will no longer be available as a standalone program. However, the skills and competencies currently taught through CCRD will be incorporated into each CTE program to ensure students continue to develop essential college and career readiness skills.

- Additionally, some programs will be consolidated with other related programs. For example, Justice, Law, and Society will be combined with Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement.

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- Other programs may undergo name changes or restructuring. However, a change in program name does not necessarily mean the program is being eliminated or will no longer be available to students. For example, the program currently known as IT Networking Academy and Network Operations, will now fall under the single program name of Networking. Also, Navy JROTC and Army JROTC will now fall under the single program name of JROTC.

Where can I find a comprehensive list of all the changes associated with this redesign?

For a full and complete list of all the new CTE career clusters and respective programs of study, review the link here.

What are the benefits to MCPS students?

Students will still have opportunities to engage in hands-on and work-based learning experiences (e.g., internships, apprenticeships), earn industry-recognized credentials, and earn college credit. By exploring CTE programs, students can make informed decisions about their education and training, align their academic and technical skills with future goals, and prepare for success in both college and high-demand careers.

Where are CTE programs available in MCPS?

All high schools offer a selection of CTE programs; however, all CTE programs are not offered at all high schools. Grade 8 students are able to access some CTE programs for the 2027-2028 school year via regional centers. Thomas Edison High School of Technology will continue to host CTE programs for part-time students.

How do students access these programs?

Interested students should speak to their counselors for more information about how to access and enroll in CTE programs in the district.

Where can I go for more information related to this MSDE CTE redesign?

Information related to the new MSDE approved CTE career clusters, programs, and standards are found on the MSDE website link here. For questions about the MCPS CTE offerings contact staff in the Career and Postsecondary Partnerships unit at 240-740-4044.

Department of College and Career Readiness

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