

# NEW SKILLS

## READY NETWORK



### *New Skills ready network* Quarterly Newsletter

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This is a quarterly stakeholder newsletter for the *New Skills ready network*. It provides updates and celebrations from the six sites involved in the network: Boston, Massachusetts; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Nashville, Tennessee.

## Implementing Collaborative Data Structures for Seamless Alignment

As the fourth year of the *New Skills ready network initiative* comes to an end, sites encounter a common challenge regarding data collection and alignment across institutions. Discrepancies in data collection and evaluation processes have hindered their efforts to address challenges to career pathways for learners. Denver, Colorado, however, emerges as a site demonstrating success in integrating a robust data framework. Presented below is an overview of Denver's progression in creating and implementing the Pathways Data Framework in the initial three years of the initiative, along with actionable steps that other sites may adopt to bolster their data collection and alignment efforts.

### **Year 1: Creating a Data Framework and Equity-Focused Protocols for Data Collection**

Denver initiated the development of the Pathways Data Framework, establishing a shared approach to defining, collecting, and analyzing data. Their leadership team convened experts to agree upon data terminology, metrics, and sources, ensuring a unified understanding across partners. Equity was prioritized through disaggregated data and a commitment to closing equity gaps, embedding inclusivity into the framework.

### **Year 2: Implementing Data-Sharing Agreements and Initiating Evaluation**

Leveraging the data framework, Denver addressed gaps in learner access and outcomes, particularly focusing on equity. With support from the Attainment Network, data-sharing agreements were implemented between Denver Public Schools and postsecondary institutions, facilitating the exchange of actionable data. Collaboration increased between institutions, guiding learners through pathways and enriching program offerings. Established trust cultivated in prior collaboration paved the way for beneficial data-sharing agreements, fostering a culture of shared decision-making.

### **Year 3: Refining Data Processes and Analysis**

Denver refined data sharing, collection, and analysis processes, enhancing the learner experience within career pathways. Increased data accessibility facilitated greater institutional connections, enabling strategic decision-making. The collaborative culture among partners strengthened, underpinned by ongoing data improvement efforts. Launching a learner transitions data sharing pilot and a continuous feedback loop among partners enhanced data enrichment and partnership efficacy.

To enhance data collection and alignment efforts, sites may consider the following steps:

1. **Establish Clear Data Frameworks:** Define shared data terminology, metrics, and sources across institutions to ensure consistency and alignment.
2. **Prioritize Equity:** Embed equity principles into data collection protocols, disaggregate data, and address equity gaps to promote inclusivity.
3. **Implement Data-Sharing Agreements:** Facilitate agreements between secondary and postsecondary partners to enable the exchange of actionable data.
4. **Enhance Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between institutions to guide learners through pathways and enrich program offerings.
5. **Refine and Iterate:** Continuously refine data processes and analysis, leveraging insights to enhance learner experiences and strengthen partnerships.

Denver's success in data integration underscores the importance of equity-focused frameworks, collaborative agreements, and iterative refinement processes. By adopting similar steps, sites can enhance their data collection and alignment efforts, ultimately empowering learners and advancing career pathways initiatives.

## Site Updates



### Boston, Massachusetts

1. Boston is excited to host a Seamless Advising Summit on March 20th at the University of Massachusetts Boston. This day-long event brings educators and advisors from Boston Public Schools, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations for a collaborative exploration of promising practices and approaches in seamless advising. The agenda features breakfast and networking, a welcome address and keynote speaker, a college and career resource fair, and three rounds of workshops focused on college and career readiness, fostering a sense of belonging and mental health support, and building successful partnerships for learner success.



### Columbus, Ohio

1. Columbus City Schools adopted a lottery system for CTE program placement, leading to a 29.8% increase in applications and ensuring 72.3% of students received their first-choice program—a 54% jump from the previous year.
2. Columbus City Schools IT curriculum enhancement, supported by JPMC funds, witnessed a substantial enrollment leap in the past year, from 1191 to 1694 students, a 42.1% increase in student participation and reflects a significant uptick in IT pathway alignment across its 20 high schools.
3. As part of a collaborative pathway development process with Columbus State Community College, The Ohio State University is working towards developing a pathway for IT Associate Degree completers to pursue an aligned Bachelor's degree.
4. The Columbus Partnership and One Columbus' engagement with 75 businesses, representing over 150,000 employees, are working to catalyze experiential learning opportunities and support the rise of equitable access to high-wage career paths, strengthening the connection between schools and the regional workforce.

### Dallas, Texas

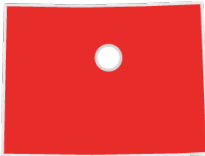
1. The Dallas ISD Career and Technical Education department hosted two regional career exploration events for 7th graders, exposing over 1200 students from 20 middle



schools to 13 career clusters and high school programs such as comprehensive campus programs of study, Career Institutes, P-TECH and Magnet programs. 14 partners and 19 high school campuses discussed career opportunities and high school programs of study.

2. United to Learn expanded Aspiring Teachers recruitment with the University of North Texas at Dallas, engaging 167 educators-in-training across 28 partner campuses – an increase from 103 educators and 18 campuses the previous school year.
3. Dallas Thrives launched the Personalized Pathway Manager with Dallas ISD and Dallas College, streamlining data management for 9,000 P-TECH students across 200 pathways. The solution, funded by the JPMC New Skills ready network grant, aims to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance student support for the K-12 to workforce pipeline. Plans include scaling to 11 other districts and expanding support for CTE and dual credit programs.

### **Denver, Colorado**



1. The Attainment Network's 2024 Learner Voice Symposium, "Redefining Success," took place virtually on February 29th. This free event centered on Colorado learners and earners, offering insights into how they approach career exploration, navigate postsecondary transitions, and prepare for jobs along career pathways. Attendees gained valuable perspectives on how today's learners evaluate success, considering factors like return on investment, economic opportunity, and community needs.
2. In late February, a delegation from our DPS partners visited the Dallas ISD Career Institutes (DCI) for a productive learning exchange. The DCI is a model for providing high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways to students in a large, urban school district. The visit focused on DCI's innovative approach of utilizing regional centers to offer a broader range of CTE programs than what might be available at individual high schools. The exchange provided valuable insights into:
  - Developing strong partnerships with industry leaders to ensure the curriculum aligns with current workforce needs.
  - Creating a seamless pathway for students to earn industry certifications and college credits alongside their high school diplomas.
  - Providing a supportive learning environment that fosters student engagement and prepares them for successful careers.

### **Indianapolis, Indiana**



1. IU Indianapolis partnered with IPS High Schools (specifically Arsenal Tech, Crispus Attucks, Emmerich Manual, George Washington, and Shortridge High Schools) to increase accessibility to a quality education. High School graduating seniors with a 3.0 or higher from the previously listed schools are automatically offered admission to IU Indianapolis, without needing to complete an application, pay an application fee, or send in a transcript.
2. IU Indianapolis and Ivy Tech enhanced their decades-long partnership with the launch of dual admission. Students will gain access to IU Indianapolis advising, student support and financial aid counseling. Through their experience at Ivy Tech students will begin to build connections with the IU Indianapolis campus and resources. Following completion of their associates degree at Ivy Tech they will enroll in IU

- Indianapolis to continue their bachelor's degree.
3. At Indianapolis Public Schools, 104 high school students participated in dual enrollment courses with Ivy Tech during the Fall semester and attained a total of 387 transferable core college credits. 115 high school students took the Clifton Strengths Student Assessment in the fall semester with NSrn career advisors and received an overview of their generated reports.

### Nashville, Tennessee

1. The Chamber Education report committee released its annual report on K-12 postsecondary advising in late January. Community business and education stakeholders received commendations and recommendations towards supporting continued innovation in the advising space and enhancing innovative practices implemented as part of New Skills Ready and other initiatives. The report release included a [video](#) featuring students who participated in work-based learning last school year.
2. Nashville State Community College, supported by ESG, is conducting deep pathway mapping work to identify linkages with New Skills partners and develop new academic pathways aligned with the labor market. The project is set to conclude late this Spring.
3. Approximately 300 Metro Schools students are enrolled in dual enrollment courses with Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Nashville. All four original New Skills Ready schools offer dual enrollment courses in Computer Information Technology. Three schools without an IT pathway are now offering expanded IT courses. Whites Creek, a New Skills school, will introduce a full CTE pathway in Cybersecurity next school year, consisting of TCAT dual enrollment courses leading to industry credentials.



## NSrn Communities in the News

*New Skills ready network*  
communities continue to make news for their efforts to strengthen college and career readiness. Links to recent articles are below:



[Dual Admission Program Eliminates Barriers to Transfer Students from Ivy Tech to IU Indianapolis](#)

(News at IU; Indianapolis; February 6, 2024)

[New IU Indianapolis, Lily Partnership to Boost Talent Pipelines, Workforce Development](#)

(News at IU; Indianapolis; February 1, 2024)

[EdVestors to Receive \\$100,000 Grant From the National Endowment for the Arts](#)

(MassNonprofit News; Boston; January 28, 2024)

[Nashville Chamber Education Report Details How MNPS Can Help Meet Local Job Demands](#)

(The Tennessean; Nashville; January 23, 2024)

[Dallas ISD New Institute Creates Career-Ready Graduates](#)

(People Newspapers; Dallas; January 10, 2024)

[Dallas College Opens New Workforce Training Center in South Dallas](#)

(The Dallas Morning News; Dallas; December 8, 2023)

Columbus City Schools Excited for Students to Continue and Expand Use of the College and Career Readiness Solution, SchoolLinks  
(GlobeNewswire; Columbus; September 21, 2023)

Have a news article to share? Email a link to Advance CTE Associate Director of Communications Stacy Whitehouse at [swhitehouse@careertech.org](mailto:swhitehouse@careertech.org).

## Reminders

Remember that Advance CTE is always available to provide research on topics your *New Skills ready network* teams are working on. To submit a research request please fill out [this form](#).

Mark your calendars! The *New Skills ready network* **Spring Convening 2024** will take place in **Dallas, TX from June 10-12, 2024**. [Registration is now live](#).

Don't forget about our *New Skills ready network* [resource repository](#)! The repository collects resources and tools from each of the six sites and previous convenings.

## New Resources and Publications

*Check out the latest resources from Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group and additional partners:*

[Making the Connection: Aligned Advising Case Studies](#) | ESG

[State Policies Impacting CTE: 2023 Year in Review](#) | Advance CTE & Association for Career Technical Education

[Extending the Runway: A National Analysis of Middle School Career Exploration](#) | ESG & The American Student Assistance

[Moving Career Pathways Forward: Learning From the New Skills for Youth Initiative](#) | Advance CTE and ESG

[Cultivating Connections: A Framework For Building, Strengthening, and Mobilizing Students' Social Capital](#) | ESG

[The Next Phase of Dual Enrollment Policy: A Vision For the Field](#) | Advance CTE

[Beyond the Four-Year Degree: Lessons From pathways Access and Awareness Pilots](#) | ESG

[Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) for Climate Jobs: A Framework for Secondary and Postsecondary CTE](#) | Advance CTE

[Clearing the Path: Addressing Equity Blockers to Work-Based Learning in the New Skills Ready Network](#) | ESG

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