



Explainer: Advancing the Framework

Achieving an Industry-Informed, Learner-Centered, Inclusive, Modernized The National Career Clusters® Framework

In December 2022, Advance CTE launched the Advancing the Framework initiative to modernize the National Career Clusters Framework in response to growing feedback from the field about the need to align the Framework to the realities of learning and work today and for the future.

The Need for A Modernized Framework

Since the Framework’s creation in 2002, there have been tremendous shifts in the labor market, the nature of work and the workplace, and the role of technology. Such transformations range from the new normal of hybrid and remote work, instant information access, the frequency of career changes, the rise of artificial intelligence, and more. The current Framework does not reflect these changes.

The Vision for A Modernized Framework

This modernization is an exciting opportunity to remove silos among industry and education, state and local levels, and across Career Clusters that are keeping learners from being fully prepared for the world of work. **A modernized Framework should be flexible for every state and will:**

- reflect the truly interdisciplinary nature of work through more intersectionality across clusters;
- update language and groupings to better bridge industry’s organization of work with education;
- include new sectors, skills, and approaches from the entire world of work, while providing flexibility for the future.

An Inclusive Input Process

Advance CTE has collected ongoing feedback from thousands of CTE professionals and partners. These communities have shared that they want a **more flexible Framework** that is more inclusive and expansive of emerging sectors, and better aligned to where work is and will be in the future.

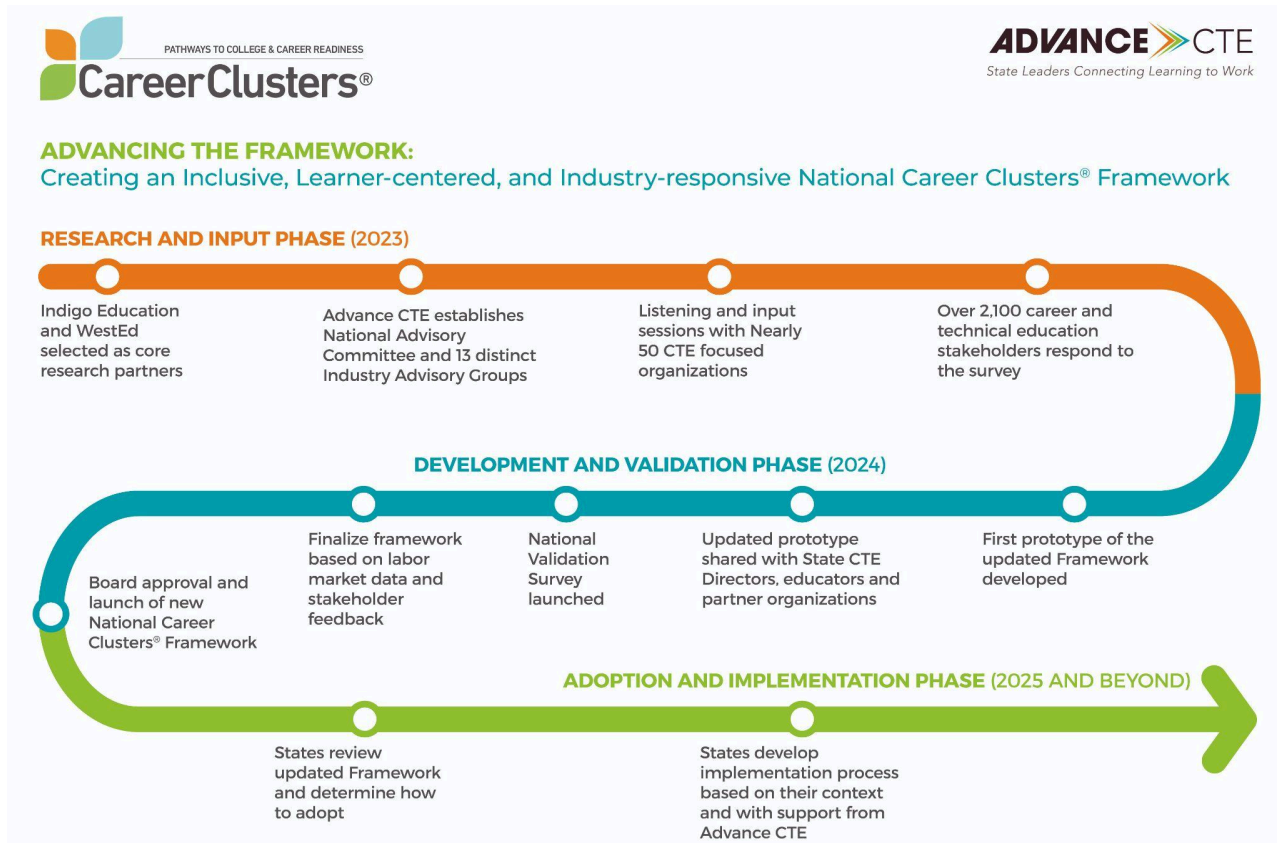


An Industry-Responsive Methodology

A modernized Framework will be updated, expanded, and reorganized while still maintaining its core structure to be more reflective of and responsive to industry. Complementing our comprehensive input process is a labor-market driven approach to Framework adjustments. The Framework is being developed and organized based on an analysis of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and Standard Occupation Codes (SOC), combined with sector-specific labor market research that will be validated by industry professionals in each sector.

The Road Ahead

State adoption and implementation of a new Framework will take years to fully complete. Advance CTE will be a steadfast partner along the way. We will provide resources and one-on-one support to states and the larger CTE community to address the impacts of modernization on data collection and reporting, program of study alignment and approval, legislative mandates, educator credentialing, and more. Resources will also share how partners such as Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSOs) are connected and represented across the Clusters.



Join Our Information Network

You can help ensure that everyone in the CTE community is informed on the initiative and opportunities to provide feedback on a draft Framework. **How you can help:**

- Sign up for email updates and share the link with your community
- Use and share our FAQs, Myths explainer, boilerplate copy, and more.
- Respond to and share the public validation survey opening in June 2024.

