

The Common Career Technical Core (CCTC) are a set of voluntary standards that identify what students should know and be able to do after completing a program of study. Given their unique design as end-of-program of study expectations that can serve as an anchor for existing national, state and local standards, states are and can use them in a variety of meaningful ways. Below is the NASDCTEc Board-approved policy for how states can formally adopt, implement or endorse the CCTC.

A state is considered to have **adopted** the CCTC when:

- Through the appropriate process (e.g. regulatory, legislative or decision-making authority), the state has adopted all of the Career Ready Practices and/or all of the Career Cluster- and Career Pathway-level content standards for Career Clusters and Career Pathways currently authorized in the state.

OR

- Through the appropriate process (e.g. regulatory, legislative or decision-making authority), the state has required all of the Career Ready Practices and/or all of the Career Cluster- and Career Pathway-level content standards to be used for any state-developed or state-approved programs of study.
- For Career Clusters in which the state has standards and/or programs, the state must adopt the Career Cluster-level standards and all Career Pathway-level standards for those Career Pathways employed in the state.
- A state cannot adopt Career Pathway-level standards without also adopting the Career Cluster-level standards for the Career Cluster in which that Career Pathway sits.
 - For example, if a state only has programs/standards related to the Finance and Health Science Career Clusters and planned to adopt the CCTC, the state would need to adopt 12 Career Ready Practices and the CCTC in the Finance and Health Science Career Clusters. The state would not be required to adopt the CCTC standards for the other 14 Career Clusters and their related Career Pathways.
 - If the state did not have any programs under the Accounting Career Pathway, under Finance, for example, the state would not be required to adopt those Career Pathway-level standards. However, if the state ONLY had programs under the Accounting Career Pathway, the state would still need to adopt the Career Cluster-level standards in Finance.
- A state may choose to just adopt or require the Career Ready Practices
- The state has addressed related policies to ensure implementation of the new standards. It is important to note that a state may continue to implement additional CTE standards (e.g. locally-, state- or industry-developed standards.)

A state is considered to have **implemented** the CCTC when:

- Through the appropriate process (e.g. regulatory, legislative or decision-making authority), the state has formally embedded the CCTC into the local program approval process (i.e., by requiring local programs to provide evidence of CCTC alignment) or the local articulation agreement approval process, or formally required the use of CCTC in ways that will directly impact program development and/or review.

A state is considered to have **endorsed** the CCTC when:

- Through the appropriate process, the state is using the CCTC to inform program development and/or review. Examples of such endorsement include, but are not limited to:
 - Use of CCTC in standards revision process (among other standards)
 - Use of CCTC in program of study development process (among other standards)
 - Use of CCTC in course approval process (among other standards)
 - Use of CCTC in program of study approval process (among other standards)
 - Use of CCTC in technical skills assessment revision, development, and/or approval process
 - Offer professional development, guidance or tools on use of CCTC to educators/administrators
 - Use of CCTC to help analyze secondary-postsecondary alignment of standards, courses, systems