



North Carolina uses work to get CTE students “future ready”

As part of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) goal to provide a comprehensive approach to college and career readiness, WorkKeys® helps prepare students with essential workplace skills.

RESULTS:



94%
success rate
of graduates employed,
in military service, or in
postsecondary education



Increase in
certificates
earned
from 85% to 87% in one year

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS USED:



Starting CTE students off right

THE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

More than 500,000 North Carolina high school students are served by CTE programs each year.

The challenge is to reach these students early to help them prepare with the essential foundational skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

The idea is to provide “work-based learning” experiences, starting in middle school, so students really begin to see what the workplace is like.

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For those who do choose a CTE path, they would also leave with some industry-standard credentials and technical studies, so we think it's a good way to ensure students have a broad array of choices after they graduate.”

Jo Anne Honeycutt

CTE Director at North Carolina DPI

Add NCRC® to the mix

THE SOLUTION

North Carolina was already investing in ACT solutions for grades 8 and 10 by using ACT Explore® and ACT Plan® as diagnostic assessments and administering the ACT® test to all high school juniors.

The state chose to add a requirement that all seniors enrolled in CTE programs take the three WorkKeys assessments required for the National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC®).

In addition to the NCRC having identical requirements to the state CRC, it also gave students another credential to document the foundational workplace skills that employers value.

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It's a good way to ensure students have a broad array of choices after they graduate.”

Jo Anne Honeycutt

CTE Director at North Carolina DPI

SEGMENT OVERVIEW

North Carolina's Career & Technical Education (CTE) division within the state's Department of Public Instruction offers 16 career cluster areas and about 180 state-approved CTE courses to high school students.

Successful students

OUTCOMES

94% SUCCESS RATE

“We survey [students] six months after graduation to see if they are employed, in military service, or in postsecondary education or advanced training. For the most recent graduating class, 94% were involved in one or more of these activities.”

Jo Anne Honeycutt

CTE Director at North Carolina DPI

YEAR-TO-YEAR IMPROVEMENT

“We are particularly proud of the progress from our first to our second year: the number of certificates earned increased, and we're seeing an increase in Gold-level certificates.”

Jo Anne Honeycutt

CTE Director at North Carolina DPI

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We want to be sure we aren't just graduating students—which is an admirable goal. We want to be sure that when they leave us, they are college and career ready.”

Tammy Howard

Director of Accountability Services
North Carolina Department
of Public Instruction

ACT WORK READY COMMUNITIES

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is proud to have numerous ACT Work Ready Communities, a collection of counties leveraging the NCRC to close the skills gap and strengthen their region's economy.

See what other counties are work ready at www.workreadycommunities.org.