

Senate File 278: High School Robotics Education and Competition

Overview

[Senate File \(SF\) 278](#) establishes new opportunities for robotics education and competition in Iowa schools. Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, the legislation directs the Iowa Department of Education to provide technical assistance and resources to school districts interested in chartering Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) focused on robotics. The Act also authorizes high school athletic organizations to sponsor or administer interscholastic robotics contests, expanding opportunities for students to engage in hands-on STEM learning and technical skill development.

SF Legislative Requirements

“The Department of Education shall provide educational resources and technical assistance to school districts for chartering CTSOs that comply with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, including organizations and competitions related to robotics.

School-funded athletic organizations may sponsor or administer interscholastic robotics contests and competitions.

This authorization does not limit or prohibit organizations from continuing to host other interscholastic competitions.”

Career and Technical Student Organizations Within Iowa’s Perkins V State Plan

Secondary CTSOs must be aligned broadly by CTE content area (e.g., Agriculture, Health Science, Applied Science/Manufacturing) and more narrowly by Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code to ensure industry relevance.

Each approved secondary CTE program must ensure student access to a CTSO that corresponds with the program’s career pathway and CIP code.

CTSO participation is viewed as part of a high-quality program of study and a measure of program quality under state approval and review processes.

Secondary CIP Code To A Robotics CTSO Alignment

CIP Code	Program Title
14.0101	Engineering General
15.0000	Engineering Technology General
15.1500	Engineering Related/PLTW
15.0405	Robotics Technology/Technician
11.0201	Computer Programming/Programmer, General

Chartering a Career and Technical Student Organization

Iowa schools interested in chartering a Robotics CTSO have access to a wide range of supports designed to make the process straightforward and sustainable. These include [state-developed toolkits](#) and [technical assistance documents](#) that explain how to align Robotics CTSOs with approved CTE programs, as well as [advisor training modules](#) that build capacity for local leadership. In addition, the Department provides direct technical assistance and connections to state and national CTSO partners, ensuring that each new or expanding chapter is well-supported, compliant and positioned to deliver strong outcomes for students, advisors and communities.

Questions and Additional Information

For any questions about this information, please contact Education Program Consultant for Applied Sciences, Cale Hutchings at cale.hutchings@iowa.gov. For additional information about Career and Technical Student Organizations, visit the Department's [Career and Technical Student Organization webpage](#).