



# CTSO Curriculum Integration Resources

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CTSOs (career and technical student organizations) are intra- and co-curricular student organizations that support the establishment and growth of high quality CTE programs in local schools.

CTSOs are not “clubs” or “extra-curriculars,” but instead are designed to enrich the classroom experience through leadership and skill development while applying classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios. CTSOs programming should be aligned with and enhance state and/or local instruction.

CTSOs offer maximum educational reward with minimal risk by providing students the opportunity to experiment with a variety of career paths. Student members are able to absorb classroom instruction and apply it to real world simulations via the CTSO to determine if the field may be appropriate for them to pursue as a career. When a student explores a field of interest through a CTSO and discovers through activities and programming the field is not a fit, they are able to quickly move to try an additional field of interest, repeating the process as long as necessary.

When a student is able to find a field of interest earlier in their educational journey, they limit their risk during postsecondary instruction or training of spending dollars on a career path that is not aligned to their interests, educational, or career goals.

A CTSO creates an opportunity for a student to apply their classroom knowledge, taught via course standards, to projects, activities, and experiences. This affords students an understanding of how their classroom knowledge will apply in their future careers and education.

Included in this resource are examples of curricular integration strategies a school may implement to ensure the CTSO is intra- and/or co-curricular, including

- Using Competitive Event Topics, Guidelines and Rating Sheets as Projects and Assessments
- Service Learning and Community Service Projects
- Development of Soft, Workplace and Professional Skills
- Work Based and Project Based Learning

- Conferences and Events
- Additional Resources and Curricular Programming from National Associations

## Common Curricular Integrations

### Using Competitive Event Topics, Guidelines and Rating Sheets as Projects & Assessments

All CTSOs offer a competitive events program that allows students to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios in their given career path. Topics, guidelines, and rating sheets are made available in advance, allowing students to review the expectations and rapidly apply what they have learned.

- Host a localized contest and allow students to compete using a CTSO competitive event
- Utilize competitive event topics for classroom projects and select the best project to advance on to official CTSO competitions
  - Break a contest down into manageable elements that run concurrently to your instruction.
- Review the learning objectives and standards for each competitive event and how it mirrors classroom instruction or industry needs.

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*Sample Scenario: FBLA-PBL offers a competitive event called Business Plan. Students are tasked with creating a business plan that includes an executive summary, industry analysis, marketing plan, operations plan, financials and more. As you teach a business management or entrepreneurship course, have students build corresponding elements of the FBLA-PBL Business Plan as part of their course work. For example, after you have taught industry analysis, have students complete an industry analysis for their business plan. After the coursework is complete, submit the plan(s) as official contest entries for FBLA-PBL district, state or national contests.*

*Sample Scenario: FFA offers competitive events called Career Development Events (CDEs). These events are cross-walked with National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) standards. The resources from the respective event could be incorporated into coursework in the local program. Students with an interest in extending their knowledge and experience from the classroom to a competition could do so and compete against individuals/teams from other FFA chapters.*

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CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Competitive Events</a> (all divisions)</li> <li>• <a href="#">MBA Research Crosswalks</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">High School Competitive Events</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MBA Research Crosswalks</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Competitive Events</a> (all divisions)</li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">High School Competitive Events</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Postsecondary Competitive Events</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Middle School Competitive Events</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">MBA Research Crosswalks</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Competitive Events</a> (all divisions)</li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Career Development Events (CDEs)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Leadership Development Events (LDEs)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Proficiency Awards</a></li> </ul>
SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Championships</a> (all divisions)</li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">High School Competitive Events</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Middle School Competitive Events</a></li> </ul>

## Service Learning & Community Service Projects

Service learning is a teaching and learning method that combines community service experiences with education related to civic engagement and responsibility, skill development and academic achievement.

CTSOs, as membership associations, provide opportunities for students to connect to community service organizations. Student members learn to apply their classroom instruction to real world scenarios, helping them to engage in their local community, gain workplace and employability skills and explore careers. Youth who are more engaged in their community are more likely to seek ways to improve the community and are more likely to be committed to community service in their futures.

Most CTSOs have a community service based competitive event (see [Using Competitive Event Topics, Guidelines, and Rating Sheets as Projects & Assessments](#)), offer a community service recognition program, or have national service partners.

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*Sample Scenario: BPA Cares is a program coordinated at the national level that shines a light on and recognizes local chapters and members who participate in community service through BPA. Participation in this program means that members are engaging in worthwhile projects that support the betterment of their community while having the opportunity to receive recognition from the national organization. A local chapter uses BPA Cares to promote personal student involvement in the community through service hours or fundraising or the whole chapter completes a project that raises awareness about a community need or organization. To integrate into the classroom a service learning experience, for example, a graphic design course may work to create flyers or fact sheets for a community organization that is hosting an upcoming event.*

*Sample Scenario: HOSA partners with Be the Match, the global leader in blood stem cell transplantation, we connect the world's largest and most diverse registry of donors with patients who are their genetic match. Through this partnership, HOSA and Be the Match have created a multi-year interactive curriculum to teach about blood stem cell transplants through nine modules that may be integrated directly into the classroom.*

CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BPA Cares</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lead4Change</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">DECA + MDA Partnership</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lead4Change</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FCCLA National Programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lead4Change</a></li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FBLA-PBL + Lead4Change</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FBLA-PBL + March of Dimes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lead4Change</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">HOSA Partners</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HOSA Community Service Ideas</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HOSA + Be the Match</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lead4Change</a></li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Chapter Awards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FFA Living to Serve</a></li> </ul>
SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">SkillsUSA National Week of Service</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SkillsUSA Program of Work (Community Engagement)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Student2Student</a></li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">TSA National Service Project</a></li> </ul>

## Development of Professional Skills

Through leadership development programs, student members gain the skills necessary to be successful in their future education and careers. These skills, demanded by industry, help students who complete CTSO programs to be more attractive to employers.

*Sample Scenario: The DECA Emerging Leader Series is aligned with 21st Century Skills in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity and innovation to help build effective leaders in college and career. Students participate in modules that build upon each other based on their involvement in the association and business education. Utilize these lessons, held in conjunction with conferences, to reinforce skills being taught in the classroom. Students who attend and participate may create a presentation on the skills they learned to share them with students in the classroom.*

*Sample Scenario: SkillsUSA offers the Career Essentials Suite, which engages students in defining, implementing and measuring career-readiness skills along every point of the educational journey. Utilize these mini-lessons as a full class activity to reinforce skills, a bell-ringer, or an activity for remote instruction.*

CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Torch Awards</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Emerging Leader Series</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Leadership Academy</a></li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Learning Center (Business Achievement Awards, LEAD Award, Excellence Award)</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">On Demand Learning</a></li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National FFA Leadership Series</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa FFA Leadership Programs</a></li> </ul>
SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Career Essentials Suite</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Program of Work</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Chapter Integration Guide (MS)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CareerSafe Online Safety Training</a></li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science)</a></li> </ul>

## Work-Based & Project-Based Learning

Work based learning may take place within your CTSSO to connect classroom learning to the workplace through application and workplace mentorship. Because CTSSOs offer direct connection to industry, students may engage with industry partners to align their academic knowledge to real workplace tasks, reflecting on their learning process.

Project based learning focuses on a problem or challenge over a long period of time through hands-on learning. Because of the extended project length, students are able to complete multiple activities related to the problem or challenge that runs concurrent to course instruction, producing tangible results along the way and gaining critical thinking skills. CTSSOs offer classroom enrichment and extension through projects that align to course standards and offer real work applicability.

*Sample Scenario: FCCLA's National Programs are peer-to-peer education programs designed to help students develop real world skills through FCS education. Each program's learning objectives and guidance may be split up to mirror instruction. For example, the Student Body program helps members learn to make informed, responsible choices for their physical and*

mental health while also providing opportunities to teach others. Utilize this program and its corresponding lesson plans to mirror course instruction and, at the conclusion of instruction, have students visit their local elementary or middle school to provide a lesson and activity on student physical and mental health.

Sample Scenario: The TSA VEX Robotics Competition enables members to challenge themselves in a fun and interactive game setting while engaging in a thought provoking, multidisciplinary, STEM activity to build innovative robots with guidance from their teachers and mentors. Completion of the project lasts all year, allowing students to build and learn concurrently to course enrollment with an option to compete at the end of the school year.

CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Knowledge Matters</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Stukent</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">School Based Enterprises</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Knowledge Matters</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Japanese Exchange</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FCCLA@theTable</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Programs</a></li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Knowledge Matters</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Global Experiences &amp; Health Related Internships</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Tallo</a></li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">SAE For ALL - Guides and Curriculum</a></li> </ul>
SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Jump into STEM!</a></li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Junior Solar Sprint</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">VEX Robotics</a></li> </ul>

## Conference & Events

As an extension of the classroom, conferences and events enrich the CTE experience for CTSO students. By attending conferences and events, student members are able to connect with business and industry professionals to hear information on what industry is demanding of students and hear updates on the latest innovations in their field, including technology.

Student members are able to engage with their peers, including those from new and diverse backgrounds. Through these connections, students are able to participate in lively discussions, hear new ideas and perspectives, and refine their own understanding of important topics and concepts.

Establishing professional relationships and building a network is a result of conference and event attendance. These connections prove valuable to student members as they seek input from their peers and advice from industry professionals.

Conferences and events also provide a fun, unique opportunity for students to learn. Through travel to new destinations, students gain a deeper understanding of how they and their community fit into the greater global society.

The development of soft, workplace, and professional skills and exposure to community service opportunities accompanies conferences and events. Student members are able to attend leadership exercises to gain the skills necessary to be successful in their future careers.

*Sample Scenario: Student members from TSA attend the Fall Conference held at Camp Dodge. Members have the opportunity to engage in leadership and skill development workshops led by state officers, explore the reaction course, and engage with the National Guard to understand the technological advancements of the military through flight simulators, drone operations, and military history. Following the event, the advisor asks students form teams to do research on a technological innovation in the military over the past 30 years, giving a presentation to their class on their findings. Students are encouraged to use their knowledge from the event or connect with the National Guard for deeper understanding.*

*Sample Scenario: Members of FCCLA attend Capitol Leadership in Washington, DC., where students come together with youth leaders across the nation to use their voice and share their passion to meet with congressional leaders and promote Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education for every student in every state in every school. Prior to the event, utilizing the FCS content standard “Analyze factors, including cultural, political, and geographical influences, that affect consumer advocacy,” have students research their expectation of these factors. After the event, have students compare their prior research to what they learned engaging with legislators.*

CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>

SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Iowa Conferences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Conferences</a></li> </ul>

## Additional Resources & Curricular Programming from National Associations

Each CTSO has additional materials and resources for curriculum integration. For more information on any additional programs available by CTSO, please contact your respective CTSO executive director.

CTSO	Resource Link
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BPA Educator Resources</a></li> </ul>
DECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Classroom Integration Resources</a></li> </ul>
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lesson Plans</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LifeSmarts</a></li> </ul>
Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FBLA (high school) Education Programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FBLA Middle Level (middle school) Education Programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">PBL (college) Education Programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LifeSmarts</a></li> </ul>
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Advisor Handbook</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LifeSmarts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">On Demand Learning</a></li> </ul>
FFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FFA Educator Resources</a></li> </ul>
SkillsUSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">LifeSmarts</a></li> </ul>
Technology Student Association (TSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>