

The Role of Online Delivery within CTE Pathways

Guiding Principles for Delivering Quality CTE Courses Online

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The mission of Idaho Career & Technical Education is to prepare youth and adults for additional education and careers. In accomplishing its mission, ICTE recognizes the value of online education in reaching students statewide, and is committed to maintaining the integrity of the CTE framework. The division has established guiding principles to help educators and families make informed decisions about how, when, and to what extent career and technical education can and will be offered in a virtual setting. The principles and framework outlined below will help ensure all students who participate in a CTE pathway receive the same level of rigor, challenge, and competency across all areas of the state and among all programs.

Guiding Principles for Online CTE Courses

- Online educational opportunities for students play an important role in expanding career and technical education opportunities for students by giving schools and districts more flexibility in the delivery of certain CTE courses.
- A key component of career and technical education is hands-on applied learning, which requires that at least some component of the coursework, the experiential learning, and the student organization participation take place in a face-to-face environment.

Background

As a geographically large state with a high number of rural school districts, Idaho has worked to ensure all students have access to high-quality education. To help further those efforts, Idaho's Digital Learning (IDL) was first authorized by the state legislature in 2002 to "provide choice, accessibility, flexibility, quality and equity in curricular offerings". IDL formally expanded its course offerings in 2015 to include secondary career and technical education. During the 2015 legislative session, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1086 [now Idaho Code 33-2205(3)], which directs ICTE to partner with IDL for the development and delivery of relevant CTE courses. The goal of the ICTE-IDL partnership is to adapt specific introductory and intermediate CTE courses for online instruction through what we call "CTE Digital." This partnership also allows ICTE to preserve the quality and hands-on components of career pathway instruction while leveraging the IDL platform and funding mechanism to broaden the reach of CTE courses to Idaho school districts statewide.

Guidelines for Online CTE Courses

Based on Idaho Code and the State's partnership with IDL, the ICTE stands on the following guiding principles to direct the development and delivery of online CTE courses:

- Through annual legislative appropriations, ICTE provides funding to IDL to develop online CTE courses.

- IDL will develop and offer CTE courses, not complete pathways. ICTE does not offer CTE Capstone courses, experiential learning opportunities, or secondary Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) through online delivery.
- As IDL is the only state-identified partner for online delivery, ICTE provides no additional funding for online CTE courses to any other online providers. This includes virtual schools and districts that wish to develop their own courses, even if those courses may align with state standards.
- Where CTE teachers are limited, ICTE recommends that districts consider using CTE Digital for introductory-level courses. This would allow those districts to hire CTE teachers in a targeted capacity to teach and advise the intermediate and capstone courses, relevant experiential learning opportunities, and CTSOs in a face-to-face environment. ICTE Added Cost funding is available for school districts to offer individual face-to-face capstone courses.

Understanding CTE Digital

CTE Digital Eligibility Requirements

CTE Digital courses are developed at the direction of ICTE. Program Quality Managers and the Director of Secondary Programs determine the courses to be developed based on the content of the course and the appropriateness of online delivery for that content, how the course fits into the offerings for a cluster program, or how it fits into the course sequence for a pathway program, and the strategies to ensure student success in the course. CTE Digital courses must provide the same quality CTE instruction and, when the course fulfills part of a pathway sequence, must prepare students to continue to complete the pathway program.

CTE Digital Course Development and Delivery Process

Once a course or series of courses is determined to be appropriate for online delivery, online courses for CTE Digital are developed collaboratively between IDL and CTE subject matter experts, and are delivered pursuant to the following process:

1. CTE online courses are developed and/or revised by certified CTE teachers hired by IDL, who typically are teaching the same course in their district.
2. Curriculum and course content is aligned with CTE program standards.
3. The ICTE Program Quality Manager signs off on the course before it can be offered through CTE Digital.
4. IDL hires only CTE certified teachers to deliver CTE Digital courses.

CTE Digital Enrollment Costs

IDL operates as an independent school rather than a state department or agency. Enrollment costs, including CTE Digital courses, are expenses often covered by the student's school. ICTE does not pay for enrollment costs, nor does it provide Added-cost Funding to any district based on student enrollment in CTE Digital.