

Guidelines for Teaching Career Cluster Foundation Course in 8th grade

The following guidelines have been developed to clarify the requirements for teaching a Georgia Career Cluster/Pathway Foundation course to 8th grade students to facilitate the opportunity for eighth grade students to earn a high school unit of credit and middle schools to earn “Exceeding the Bar” points towards their annual College and Career Ready Performance Index. This document has been developed for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) teachers.

According to the recently adopted State Board of Education policy 160-1-5-.15, **Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades**, the following section of the policy is relevant.

(b) Awarding Units of Credit for Courses Taken in Georgia Public Schools

1. Local boards of education shall award units of credit only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education.
2. Local boards of education may award units of credit for courses offered in the middle grades that are based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education.
3. Local boards of education shall not award units of credit for courses in which instruction is based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades K-8.

Considering the new state board policy, the following guidelines were developed to support LEA administrators and teachers in the implementation of high school CTAE courses in a middle grades school.

1. The middle school teacher needs to be in good standing and in-field highly qualified as assured by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to teach a CTAE foundation course.
2. 8th grade students may go to the high school and be taught by an in-field CTAE teacher in an equipped classroom/lab.
3. 8th grade students may stay at their home middle school and be taught the foundation course by an in-field CTAE teacher.
4. If taught at the middle school,
 - a. The middle school teacher needs to provide documentation of professional learning for the new foundation course covering standards/elements, and industry input suggestions.
 - b. The middle school teacher collaborates with the high school pathway teacher to teach the course to 8th grade students.
 - c. The middle school classroom/lab needs to include and be equipped with the appropriate equipment to fulfill the standards and elements of the high school curriculum foundation course as found in the high school pathway.
5. Courses need to be taught in the same scope/sequence and use the same formative, summative, and alternative assessments as used in the high school pathway course.

6. Students should meet for a minimum of 150 hours of instruction per CTAE foundation course on a traditional schedule or 135 hours of instruction per CTAE foundation course on a block schedule to earn a high school credit.
7. Because of Georgia Department of Education funding policies, CTAE lab courses taught to 8th grade students cannot earn “K” weight for the course. The location of course instruction does not matter. Eighth grade students are not eligible to earn the advanced funding.
8. The following courses are eligible to be taught in the middle school when previous guidelines have been met.
 - a. Audio & Video Technology Film I
 - b. Basic Agriculture Science
 - c. Basic Maintenance and Light Repair
 - d. Food, Nutrition & Wellness
 - e. Foundations of Engineering and Technology
 - f. Foundations of Marine Engine Technology
 - g. Foundations of Electronics
 - h. Foundations of Interior Design
 - i. Fundamentals of Aerospace
 - j. Introduction to Collision Repair
 - k. Introduction to Consumer Relations
 - l. Introduction to Government and Public Administration
 - m. Introduction to Graphics Design
 - n. Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 - o. Introduction to Personal Care Services
 - p. Introduction to Business and Technology
 - q. Introduction to Digital Technology
 - r. Introduction to Drafting and Design
 - s. Logistics Fundamentals
 - t. Marketing Principles
9. Concerns for teaching additional CTAE foundation courses within the Career Clusters are listed below.
 - a. **Education and Training cluster pathways** – Due to current articulation agreements with the University System of Georgia, any Education and Training pathway course taught in 8th grade will negate students from earning postsecondary articulated credits.
 - b. **Introduction to Healthcare Science** – Certain hands-on skills can be harmful to students that are not prepared for these skills due to developmental readiness. Many of the Health Science End of Pathway Assessments requires students to be at least 18-years-old to earn an Industry Credential/Certificate.

- c. **Introduction to Culinary Arts** – Students must be registered high school students to earn an Industry Credential from the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).
- d. **Industry Fundamentals of Occupational Safety** – The national Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires students to be at least 16-years-old to sit for this course.
- e. **Foundations of Energy and Power Technologies** – Due to current articulation agreements with the Technical College System of Georgia, the teaching of this course in 8th grade will negate students from earning postsecondary articulated credits.
- f. **Introduction to Mechatronics** – Due to current articulation agreements with the Technical College System of Georgia, the teaching of this course in 8th grade will negate students from earning postsecondary articulated credits. Due to developmental readiness, certain hands-on skills can be harmful to students that are not prepared for said skills, and students lack the academic prerequisites of high school math and science skills for this course.