



Colorado's Modernized Career Cluster Framework Overview

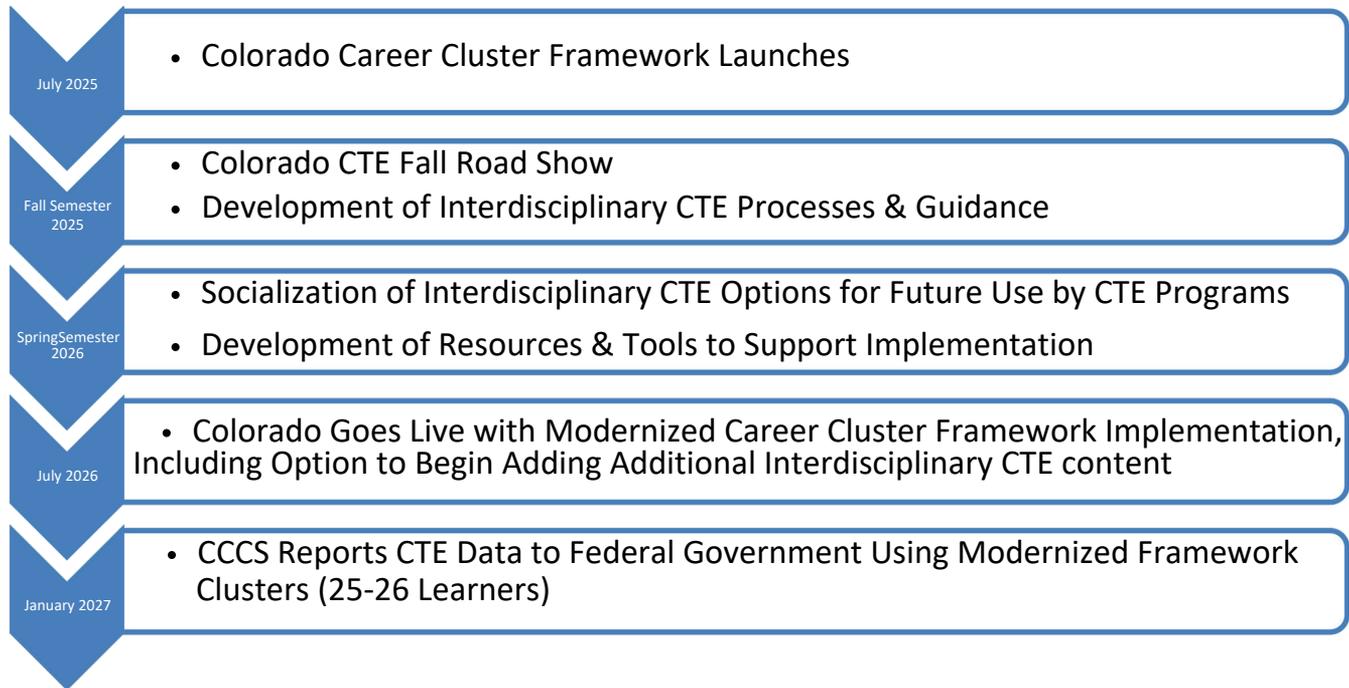
In October 2024, a modernized Career Cluster Framework was released nationally following two years of input and validation by industry and education partners. The purpose of the Career Cluster Framework is to provide structural alignment and a common language to bridge education and work, empowering each learner to explore, decide on, and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers. More information about the national framework including resources that may be adapted locally is available at: <https://careertech.org/career-clusters/>.

Between October 2024 and May 2025, Colorado CTE has engaged partners in CTE to inform our state implementation of the modernized Framework. The version released in July 2025 represents the current and emerging world of work aligned to career and technical education (CTE) programs at the middle school, high school, and postsecondary levels. Feedback from constituents largely supported adopting the national Framework with only minor changes to reflect our Colorado context.

Some key points about our Career Cluster Framework:

- Implementation of the modernized Framework will support high quality CTE programs that are aligned to industry demand and educational opportunities from middle school through high school, and into postsecondary.
- All existing CTE programs have a place in the modernized Framework although the specific career cluster into which they fit may have shifted visually. This minimizes impacts to program organization, instructor credentialing, or reporting.
 - Colorado CTE State Program Directors will continue to review the CTE programs aligned to their subject matter expertise. Your CTE team contacts are not changing. No immediate changes to program approvals are expected. As any future shifts in programs occur at any level, there will generally be phased implementation as is our current practice to align with expiration of programs.
 - Any future credentialing changes will be phased in and CCCS will support professional development for instructors where possible.
- CTE student organizations (CTSO) provide important learner leadership and skill development opportunities. A fact sheet of CTSO options aligned with the clusters is available at www.coloradocte.org.
- The modernized Framework includes new opportunities for incorporating interdisciplinary courses into CTE programs where it makes sense for the quality of the program and opportunities learners are preparing for. For example, project management concepts or course work in a health care, financial services, or hospitality context.
 - More details on interdisciplinary courses and processes for utilizing this option will be forthcoming by December 2025.
 - Instructors delivering interdisciplinary courses will need to meet relevant credentialing requirements, which will be considered in the development of interdisciplinary courses or programs.

Timeline From Here



Career Cluster Framework Layout

