

Career Technical Education Committee

2024 Resolution

BUILDING A BETTER BRIDGE BETWEEN LEARNING AND WORK THROUGH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, career and technical education (CTE) has proven its value in minimizing dropout rates and promoting further education in proportions approaching those of purely academic routes; and

WHEREAS, the workforce is experiencing severe shortages in a number of areas, including education, all exacerbated by COVID-19, all the while needing to prepare students for well-paying, middle-class jobs of the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs to embrace CTE as a system of career advising, career-connected learning, followed by an employer-facilitated transition to work and/or further education tied to a career; and

WHEREAS, there are often barriers for teachers entering the profession from industry, from pay cuts, to lack of curriculum, to additional schooling and coursework requirements.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers, including its locals and affiliated organizations, will support and will advocate for the development of student internships and apprenticeships, including pre-apprenticeship programs in career and technical education programs in school districts across the United States, in partnership with local employers, union apprenticeship programs and community colleges; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers, including its locals and affiliated organizations, will advocate for a framework of curriculum to be provided to CTE teachers along with additional planning time to modify and further develop the curriculum in conjunction with their experience and the district's plans, so they are able to teach students the latest skills that companies are looking for; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers, including its locals, will advocate for funding for CTE programs, both in Career Tech Centers and in traditional/comprehensive school districts, to support salaries of all teachers and incentivize educators to come from industry; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers, including its locals, will look at additional ways to support all teachers. Possible means of support could include, but not be limited to, the following: extended days, additional prep time, and tuition reimbursement programs to offset the cost of additional classes.