

Transforming CTE: From Pathways to Durable Skills That Drive Arkansas Forward

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Agenda



- Pathway Revisions
- Durable Skills
- Administrator Playbook

How did pathway revisions and durable skills connect?

The Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) ensures students graduate prepared for enlistment, enrollment, or employment by aligning pathways with workforce demands through tools like LMI, SOC, and CIP. Guided by the LEARNS Act, we focus on equipping students with durable and technical skills that meet industry standards and lead to sustainable, high-wage, high-demand careers.



Readiness

The Secretary of the Department of Education shall ensure that all Arkansas students are meeting the demands of today's workforce by:

- A** Engaging third-party experts to conduct an annual audit of the state's career pathways, the first of which shall be completed in no more than 180 days. The annual audit should include
- I. An analysis of the alignment of the programs, degrees and certificates, and industry-recognized credentials offered by Arkansas K-12, postsecondary, and workforce institutions;
 - II. An analysis of the alignment of these programs, degrees and certificates, and industry-recognized credentials with high-growth, high-demand, high-skill, and high-wage employment opportunities in Arkansas;
 - III. An evaluation of the outcomes of individuals who participate in or receive these programs, degrees and certificates, and industry-recognized credentials such as academic achievement, college readiness, postsecondary enrollment and completion, attainment of degrees, certificates, credentials of value, and employment and wages; and
 - IV. An analysis of the return on investment of the programs, degrees and certificates, and industry-recognized credentials offered by Arkansas K-12, postsecondary, and workforce institutions.

Due Date

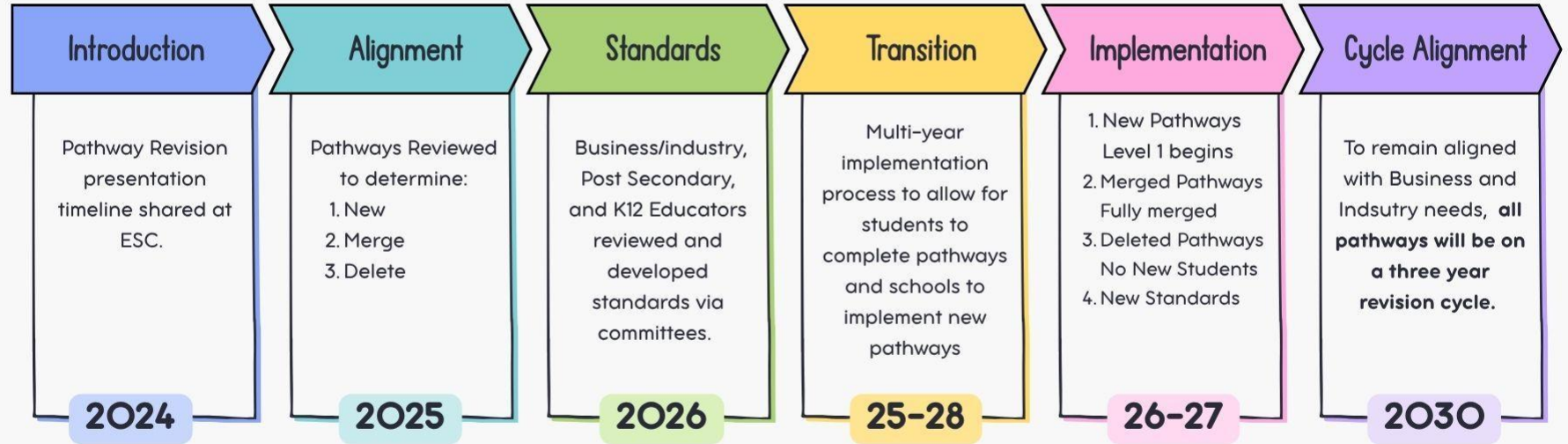
July 10,
2023

 View Report



 View Report

Pathway Revision Timeline



What are durable skills?

Same Skill, New Name



Soft skills



Employability skills



21st-century skills

Essential / power skills



Professional skills



Durable skills

Type of Skill

- Cognitive Skills
- Self-Efficacy
- Management Skills
- Technology Skills
- Engagement Skills



Creative Thinking



Analytical Thinking



Technological Literacy



Curiosity and Lifelong Learning



Resilience, Flexibility, and Agility



Systems Thinking



AI and Big Data



Motivation and Self-Awareness



Talent Management



Service Orientation and Customer Service

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2023 report finds analytical thinking, creative thinking, AI and big data will be top in-demand skills by 2027.

[Future of jobs Report 2023, World Economic Forum](#)

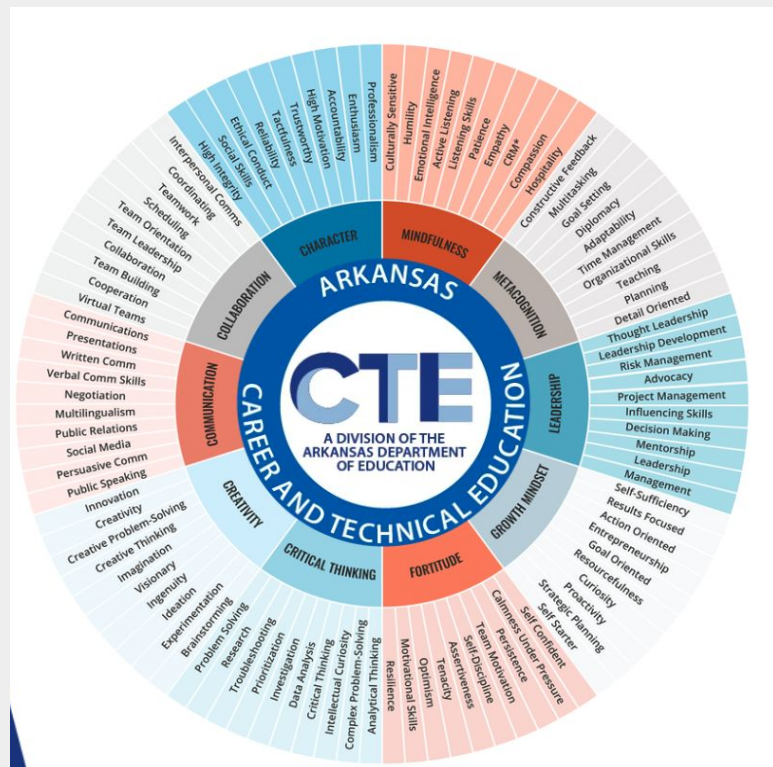
How do Durable Skills fit with career readiness standards and broader CTE initiatives?

Durable skills are more critical than ever in the age of AI. In Arkansas, eight of the ten most requested employer skills are durable skills, **and the top five are requested more than three times as often as the top technical skills.**

Today's students must do more than master academics—they must think critically, collaborate, solve real-world problems, and contribute to their communities.

When educators intentionally embed durable skills into daily instruction, students show greater engagement, confidence, and persistence. By weaving these skills into every classroom, Arkansas educators are preparing students to thrive in college, careers, and life.

Focus Points



1. **Leadership:** Directing efforts and delivering results
2. **Character:** Personal and professional conduct
3. **Collaboration:** Teamwork and connection
4. **Communication:** Information exchange and management
5. **Creativity:** New ideas and novel solutions
6. **Critical Thinking:** Informed ideas and effective solutions
7. **Metacognition:** Self-understanding and personal management
8. **Mindfulness:** Interpersonal and self-awareness
9. **Growth Mindset:** Improvement and aspiration
10. **Fortitude:** Constitution and inspiration

Quick Activity

Durable Skills



1. Write down ONE durable skill you use every day at work.



Where did you learn that?



1. Write down which CLASS you learned that ONE skill from.



Name It to Claim It



One sentence

**“What you just did was collaboration.
Say that out loud.”**

*No new class period. No new curriculum. No
budget line.*

The cascade

**You empower educators. Educators
name skills in the moment. Students
learn to claim and prove them.**

*This is administrators empowering educators
empowering students.*

Your commitment

**Name ONE way you'll help a teacher
name durable skills this week.**

Write it down. Tell a neighbor. Make it real.

~5 min

6 QUICK STEPS

The steps

- 1 Name your skill (1 min)** Write ONE durable skill you use every day at work.
- 2 Trace it (1 min)** Write the exact high school / college class where you learned it.
- 3 Pair-share (2 min)** Could you name the class? Most of us can't.
- 4 The reveal (1 min)** That gap you just felt is exactly what our students feel.
- 5 The fix (1 min)** The distance is one sentence from a teacher.
- 6 Commit (1 min)** One way you'll help a teacher name a skill this week.



The pivot

Step 2 is the turn. Most people stall — “I don't know, I just picked it up.” Let that silence sit.



Facilitator tip

Don't rush the pause after Step 2. The discomfort *is* the lesson.

Success-Ready Graduates

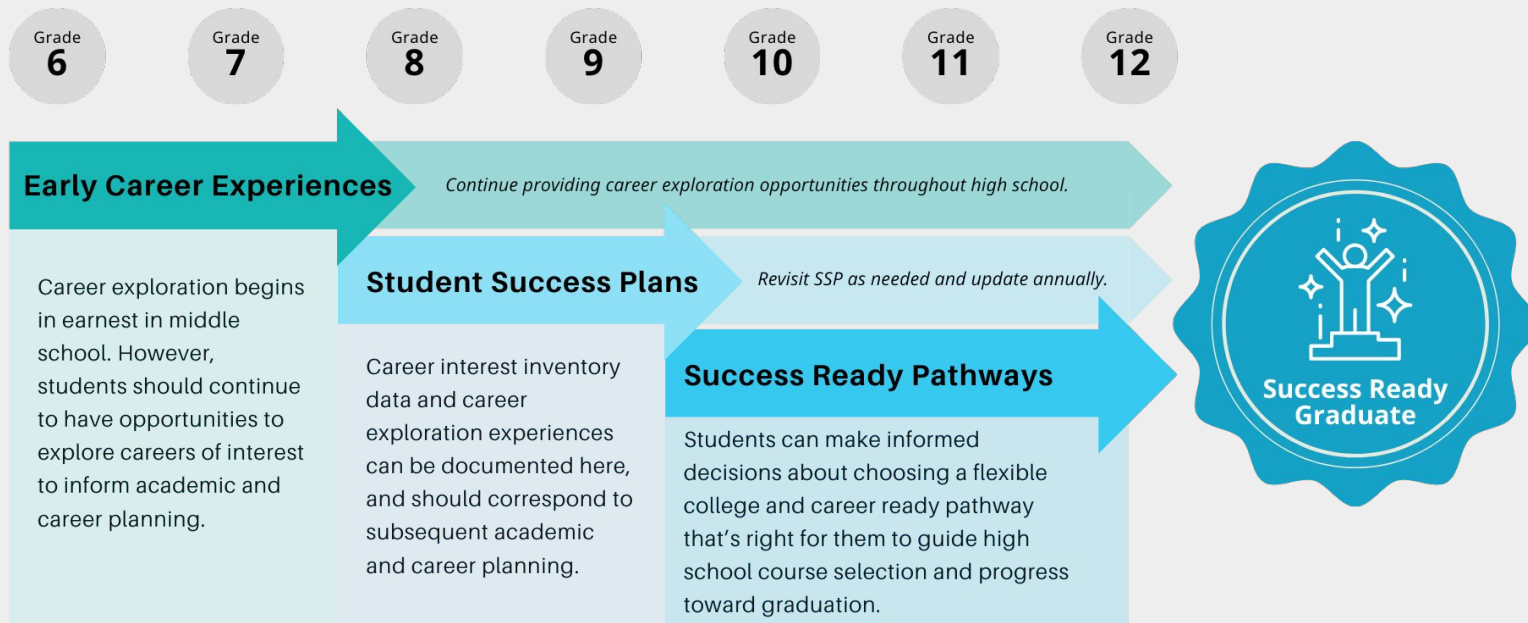


Every student in Arkansas should graduate from high school success-ready with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and habits to succeed on their chosen path, with options including:

- **Enlistment** in military service,
- **Enrollment** in a postsecondary training or degree program, and
- **Employment** in a career that provides a family-sustaining wage.

Starting with the ninth-grade class of 2024–2025, students can pursue flexible college and career readiness pathways that guide course selection and progress toward graduation. These success-ready pathways support purposeful planning aligned with postsecondary and career goals, and completion may qualify students for a Diploma with Merit or Distinction.

What makes a Success-Ready Graduate?

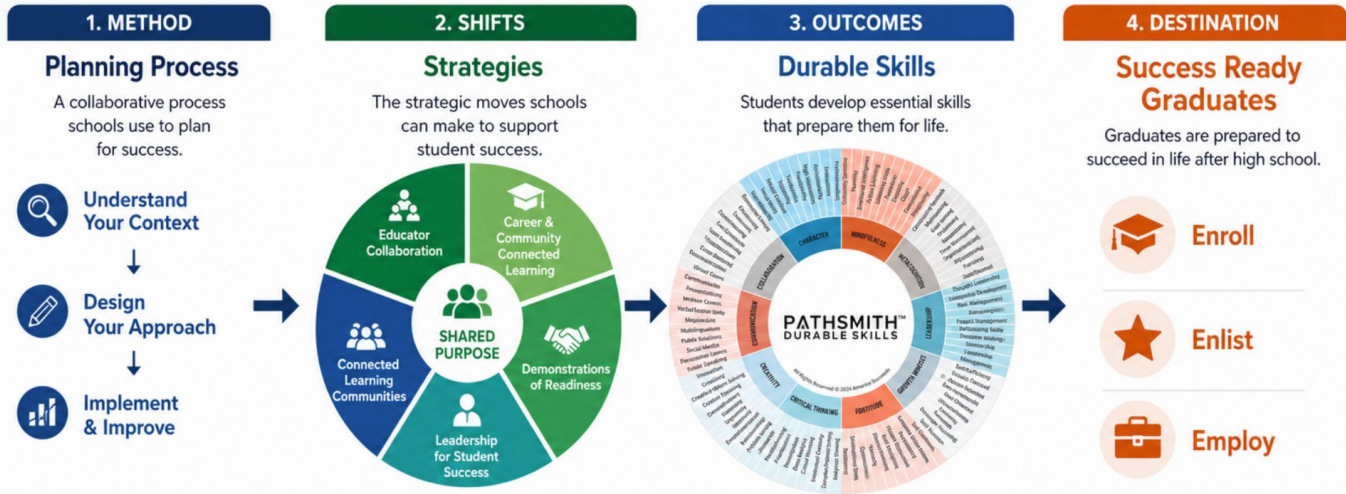


Durable Skills Administrator Playbook

Durable Skills Playbook

How Arkansas Schools Prepare Success Ready Graduates

A clear path from planning to student success.



Q&A

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