



TODAY'S SKILLS
TOMORROW'S CAREERS

A Message to Grade 6–8 Parents, Guardians, and Families

It's never too early to start preparing for a career. There are things your child can do right now to prepare for their future. This summer to help them investigate today's skills for tomorrow's careers, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has created this fun CTE BINGO activity. This CTE BINGO stands for:

- B**e invested in your education.
- I**nvestigate career options.
- N**avigate career pathways using your interests, abilities, talents, and goals.
- G**ain college and career readiness skills through Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and community involvement.
- O**wn your future and achieve your dreams.

You are the primary source of your child's work values and attitudes. Career decision-making skills have been linked to early childhood experiences, family attributes, and practices regarding careers, and role modeling by parents and guardians. Middle school students participating in career exploratory programs and activities are more likely to develop achievable educational and career paths in high school. There are many ways you can contribute to your child's early career development.

Tips for parents, guardians, and families:

- Encourage your child to participate in this CTE BINGO Challenge.
- Help your child research careers, set career goals and map-out their future.
- Have conversations with your child regarding important workforce skills.
- Explore your child's student success plan.
- Research the CTE courses available at your child's middle and high school. CTE courses deliver an enriching educational experience that promote student interest and academic success, while also developing the technical and work-ready skills necessary to meet workplace demand.

Remember home is the first workplace:

- Share responsibilities and decisions to assist in building leadership skills at an early age.
- Work as a team to develop important cooperative and collaborative skills.
- Discuss with your child how an issue was resolved to encourage problem-solving and communication.
- Be a role model — children learn by example.

