Career and Technical Student Organizations in NC

Definition, Mission, Purpose, Criteria, and Recognition

Definition

A Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is an intracurricular organization established for students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses to further their knowledge and skills by participating in real world activities, events, and competitions.

Mission and Purpose

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) enhance student learning through contextual instruction, leadership, personal development, applied learning, and real-world application. CTSOs are intracurricular and work as an integral component of the classroom curriculum and instruction, building upon employability and career skills and concepts through the application and engagement of students in hands-on demonstrations and real-life and/or work experiences through a CTE program.

CTSOs help guide students in developing a career path, a program of study and provide opportunities in gaining the skills and abilities needed to be successful in those careers through CTSO activities, programs, and competitive events. In addition, students have opportunities to hold leadership positions at the local, state, and national levels and attend leadership development conferences to network with other students and business and industry partners.

Criteria for Recognition as a CTSO in NC

To be recognized as a CTSO in North Carolina, the following criteria must be met:

- CTSO must be recognized by the National Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations (NCC-CTSO) and must be a recognized, affiliated, or chartered member in good standing of the respective national CTSO organization.
- CTSO mission and statement of purpose must include:
    - Offering programs that are integral to the industry or occupational focus that may be associated with a career pathways program, program of study or course, and
    - Serving CTE students and teachers in one or more of the 14 Career Clusters® identified in The National Career Clusters® Framework.
- CTSO governance reflects commitment to CTE as evidenced by:
    - incorporation as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the United States and the State of North Carolina,
    - organization by state geographic units, and
    - representation on the board of directors from CTE educators and/or administrators, including a member of the NCDPI, Office of CTE, or a designee specified by the Director serving the board in ex-officio, non-voting manner.
- CTSO maintains good financial standing and timely communication with NCDPI as evidenced by regular correspondence and yearly submissions to include, but not limited to:
    - Prior FY IRS Form 990 (or equivalent signed 990 Group workbook)
    - Complete set of financial statements – reviewed and verified by a CPA that contains a level of assurance to include:
        - Balance Sheet
        - Income Statement
        - Profit & Loss (P&L)
        - Statement of Cash Flows

        - Statement of Changes in Equity
        - Comparative Statements (past two years)
        - Notes to the financial statement
    - Final CTSO membership and chapter/adviser roster for the previous year
    - Current chapter/adviser roster (current as of the date of submission)
    - Bylaws and/or operating policy (if revised since the last submission)
    - List of current board members and terms
    - Signed copy of the annual performance evaluation of the employed Executive Director or equivalent
    - Copy of CTSO insurance policy – to include general liability, non-profit, professional liability, cancellation for conferences, etc.
- CTSO engagement with CTE students, educators, and state department of education will be considered statewide in scope when:
    - student members are organized into chapters in middle, secondary, and/or postsecondary institutions,
    - there is a formalized process for election/selection of student leaders/officers at the state and national levels, including a structured program of work,
    - there is an identified, participating, and employed Executive Director or equivalent, who is evaluated annually by the organization's executive board of directors, and
    - CTSO offers a minimum of 20 career development, leadership development, or competitive activities or competitions at the local/regional and state-level covering multiple disciplines. Using NCFFA as an example, multiple disciplines would include agronomy, agricultural sales, livestock evaluation, job interview, tractor safety and skills, nursery landscape, etc.

Currently Recognized CTSOs in NC

- DECA, An Association of Marketing Students
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- HOSA – Future Health Professionals
- National FFA Organization (FFA)
- SkillsUSA
- Technology Student Association (TSA)