



Career & Technical Education

Skills for Employment & Lifelong Learning

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY BRIEF #1

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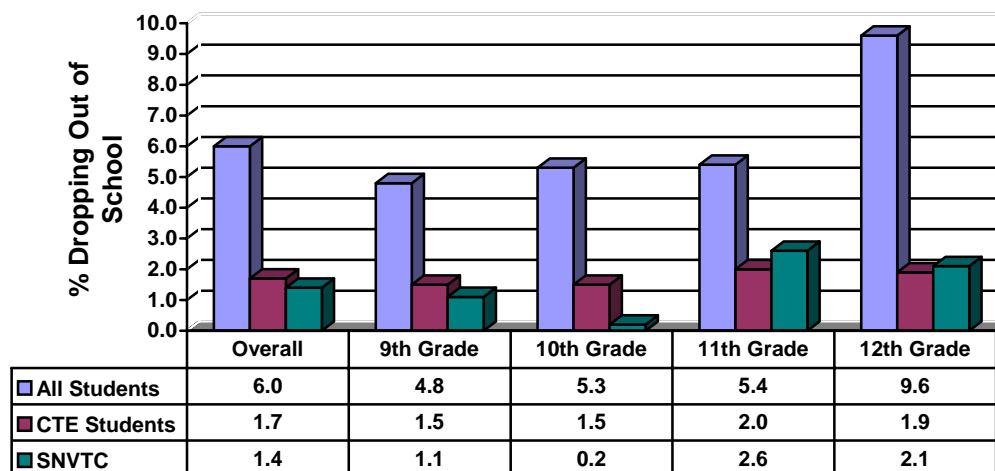
Impact of Participating in Nevada Career and Technical Education Programs on High School Dropout Rates

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs serve the needs of a large number of high school and community college students in Nevada. In the fall of 2002, 44,141 secondary students and 30,587 community college students enrolled in CTE programs. Although CTE programs serve a number of functions for students, there are four primary areas of focus for CTE:

- the attainment of academic and occupational skills;
- the successful completion of secondary or postsecondary diplomas, credentials, and certificates;
- facilitating student placement and retention in occupations, further educational programs, and the military; and
- offering students the opportunity to study and complete training programs in areas where their gender is underrepresented in the field.

To attain such goals, students must stay in school. Fortunately, participation in CTE programs in Nevada secondary schools has a strong impact on reducing dropout rates. The figure below illustrates the impact in Nevada by comparing the overall 2002-2003 school year dropout rates of all high school students with the dropout rates of CTE students and students in a career and technical high school.

**Nevada High School Dropout Rates Overall and by Grade
for All Students, CTE Students, and Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center
Students, School Year 2002-03**



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