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# Technical & Career Education



Creating Futures

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*The 2009-2010 School Year Fact Sheet from the Office of Technical and Career Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, in Virginia Beach City Public Schools*

**Technical and Career Education Programs** Technical and Career Education (TCE) courses in Virginia Beach City Public Schools provide skills and knowledge for all students, whether they are considering careers after graduation from high school, pursuing higher education, or seeking a combination of both. TCE courses at the middle school level offer students numerous exploratory course opportunities, as well as two courses for high school credit. Students taking TCE courses at the high school level may choose from one- and two-year programs in the following areas: Business and Information Technology, Engineering and Technology Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marketing Education, and Trade and Industrial Education.

**School Sites** Students in TCE programs in Virginia Beach City Public Schools are provided with the knowledge and skills that they need to be able to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. Each of the 14 comprehensive middle schools and each of the 11 comprehensive high schools offer myriad TCE courses from which students may choose. In addition, VBCPS high school students have access to three state-of-the-art centers -- the Advanced Technology Center (ATC), the Renaissance Academy, and the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center (Tech Center). The ATC offers students advanced-level curricula in any of three strands: Information Technology (IT), Telecommunications, and High Performance Manufacturing and Engineering. The Renaissance Academy offers both middle and high school TCE courses in each of the program areas. The Tech Center offers 23 occupational programs that prepare students for careers in high-demand technical fields.

**Industry Credentialing** In 2009, TCE students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools earned an astounding 4,133 industry certifications. Virginia Beach City Public Schools offered 92 different industry credentials in 2009. These credentials not only provide students a ready entry into technical and career fields, but they can also serve as student-selected verified credits that fulfill high school graduation requirements. In fact, 90 percent of the industry credentials earned by students in school year 2008-09 served as student-selected verified credits. In fall 2008, according to the Virginia Department of Education, of the 316 schools in Virginia reporting earned industry credentials, 9 of the top 25 high schools were from the Virginia Beach City Public Schools. With 17,265 industry credentials earned by TCE students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools since 2002, the school division continues to be an industry credentialing leader in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Workplace Readiness Skills** One of the key strategies listed in *Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success*, developed by The School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, is to integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century themes and skills into K-12 curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis

on critical thinking, problem solving, and authentic application of learning. The instruction and assessment of the Virginia's 13 Workplace Readiness Skills is analogous to the 21<sup>st</sup> century themes and skills and therefore supports the *Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success*. Virginia's 13 Workplace Readiness Skills include the following competencies: reading, math, writing, speaking and listening, computer literacy, problem solving, understanding the "Big Picture", work ethic, positive attitude, independence and initiative, self-presentation, attendance, and participating as a team member. In keeping with *Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success* strategies, sustainability will be the "14<sup>th</sup>" Workplace Readiness Skill for students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools. In 2009, 1,539 students passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills for Workplace Success (NOCTI) credential, which is used to assess Virginia's 13 Workplace Readiness Skills. The City of Virginia Beach Department of Economic Development and the Office of Technical and Career Education in Virginia Beach City Public Schools issued letters of recognition to the 1,539 students who passed the assessment.

**TCE Student Data** Of the, 5,230 students who graduated from Virginia Beach City Public Schools in 2009, 2,175 were TCE completers. This means that 42 percent of students at the time of their graduation had completed two or more years of a focused sequence of TCE courses. In addition, students who qualified as TCE completers earned a variety of diploma designations, with 43 percent being Advanced Diplomas. Another 53 percent were Standard Diplomas, and three percent and one percent were designated Special Diplomas and "other" respectively. As a point of information, TCE enrollment in grades 9-12 comprised 12,000 students out of a total approximate student enrollment of 69,500. Of these students, almost half were female at 48.4 percent and 51.6 percent were males.

**Exemplary Standards Program** Since the fall of 2001, VBCPS has reviewed its TCE programs according to exemplary standards criteria developed by The National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education (NDCCTE) Exemplary Standards. The standards provide a research-based framework for TCE teachers, administrators, and industry partners to assess TCE programs based on their quality, significance, and effectiveness. In 2008, Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine's office unveiled the TCE Governor's Exemplary Standards Award which is based on the NDCCTE criteria. In August 2009, the Automotive Service Technology program, housed at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center, was recognized by Governor Kaine as one of the first TCE Governor's Exemplary Standards Award recipients.

For further information, please contact the Office of Technical and Career Education at 757.648.2038. Visit our Web site at [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com)



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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