

# Unpacking Career Pathways in MNPS

Tennessee allocates funding to districts for student participation in career and technical education (CTE) courses. Next year, the state will adjust funding based on how closely a CTE course aligns with high-wage, high-demand, and high-skill careers. Read on to learn more about MNPS's CTE strategy and how new guidance may impact MNPS students.

## How do career pathways work in MNPS?

Founded in 2008, the Academies of Nashville allow high school students to **choose a pathway** aligned to a specific career or academic focus. Academy **partnerships with local businesses** provide students with **real-world experiences** and the chance to earn **industry certifications**. MNPS offers 36 Academies across its 12 zoned high schools, with 38 different pathways for students.

### The Freshman Academy

is offered to all 9th graders to learn about high school expectations and the career and college pathways offered at their school

### Career Academies

are offered to 10th-12th graders to explore different career pathways



365

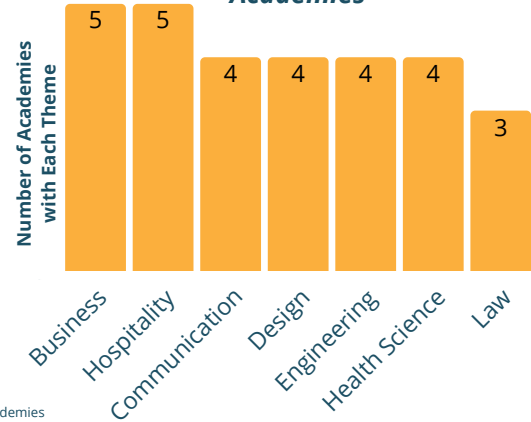
Community partners support the Academies



SCAN HERE

to learn more about the Academies

### Most Common Themes Across the Academies



## What is changing about the way the state funds CTE courses?

### How CTE courses are currently funded:

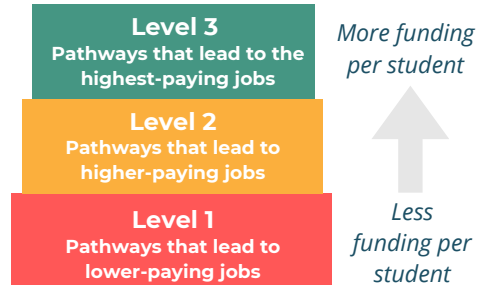


**\$5,000 x Percentage of a student's course schedule dedicated to any CTE course**

Ex. A student in one CTE class spends 25% of time in a CTE course, so funding equals  $(\$5,000) \times (25\%) = \$1,250$  for that student

### How CTE courses will be funded:

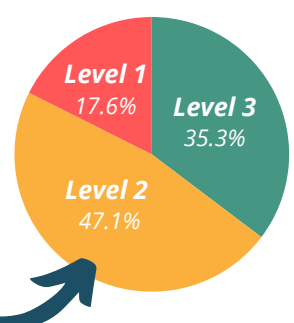
CTE courses will soon be funded based on how closely they align to **high-wage, high-demand, high-skill** careers, though the amounts per level have not yet been made public by the state



## What are the top CTE pathways offered across the Academies?

Name of CTE Pathway	Number of Academies that Offer CTE Pathway	Level of CTE Pathway
Therapeutic Services	10	Level 3
Digital Arts & Design	7	Level 3
Criminal Justice & Correction Services	5	Level 2
Audio/Visual Production	5	Level 1
Automotive Technology	4	Level 2
Culinary Arts	4	Level 1
Hospitality & Tourism	4	Level 2
Diagnostic Services	4	Level 3
Teaching as a Profession (K-12)	3	Level 3
Entrepreneurship	3	Level 2
Banking & Finance	3	Level 2
Marketing Management	3	Level 2
Engineering	3	Level 3

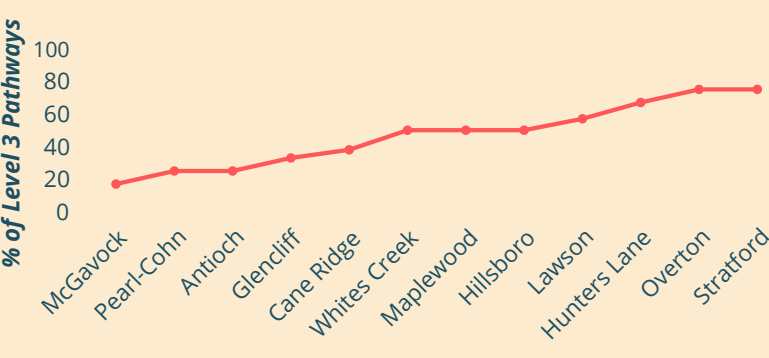
Of the 38 pathways offered in the Academies of Nashville, 4 out of 5 are considered Level 2 or 3, meaning they lead to higher-demand, higher-wage careers



## What are some things to consider moving forward?

MNPS is currently reviewing CTE pathways to enhance offerings for our students. As the district works to ensure that all students have equal access to high-wage, high-demand, and high-skill career paths, two things are important to consider:

**CTE pathways that align to high-wage, high-demand careers are not yet equally accessible across MNPS high schools**



**Many CTE pathways that lead to the highest paying jobs are available in two or fewer Academies**

### Technology Fields

- Networking Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Webdesign
- Coding

### Health Fields

- Nursing Services
- Sports and Human Performance
- Behavioral Health

### STEM Fields

- Advanced STEM applications
- BioSTEM
- Environmental Management

Sources: MNPS: About the Academies of Nashville, TN Department of Education: CTE TISA Programs of Study Leveling Guide, TISA Guide 2024-25 School Year, MNPS Enrollment Data 2023-24, TN SCORE