Helping Students Communicate in Career & Technical Education

Getting students to speak up about what is going on at home is not always the easiest task. Complications, including having an incarcerated parent, being raised by a single-parents, communication issues, and mental health issues may prevent students from doing their best in school and graduating. This comes from students adjusting at home for emotional security, and these behaviors may not be as beneficial in the classroom (Davies & Martin, 2014). Dropping out of school is sometimes the only option for students who are not receiving support from home. However, with Career & Technical Education being offered in high school, many students are sticking around to earn certifications, as well as training that will land them a supportive career without post-secondary education. Included in these CTE courses can be information about emotional intelligence, and how balancing emotions in the workplace can earn a promotion, as well as more money. Having a real-world application can help students understand the importance, and take the material more seriously.

Identifying At-Risk Students

Looking at At-Risk Models helps identify students that are at risk for dropping out of school, and how to address the issues that are preventing success. “Early Warning Systems” help ensure that all students are on the path to success, and ultimately graduate from High School. An “Early Warning System” starts as early as Middle School, with a list of student names that are struggling in varying areas of academia. Next to each student’s name are specific notes such as attendance rates, behavior issues, and course success — the ABC’s of success. Additionally, the school will keep a record of different types of interventions that have already been tried on students, and which ones have been successful or not. Not only does this system help students stay on track to graduate, but may help with college and career readiness.
The Importance of Family Structure and Student Success

One study looks at an “alarming social trend in the past 40 years” for the increased educational disadvantage of children raised in low-income families. However, low income is not the only factor influencing these rates, but rather “the rise of single-parent families, which has been much more rapid among those with low incomes than among those with high incomes, and indeed has fueled some of the increasing income inequality.” The figure below shows the dropout rate for students who are raised by

![The Growing Schooling Gap (Figure 1)](image)

*Children who live with a single parent between the ages of 14 and 16 have consistently completed less schooling than children from two-parent families, with the gap widening over time.*

**NOTES:** Children from single-parent families are those who lived with a single parent for at least one year between the ages of 14 and 16. Years of completed schooling and college graduation are measured at age 24.

**SOURCE:** Authors’ calculations based on smoothed time-series data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics
Emotional Intelligence, as defined by the Oxford University Press (2015) is “the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one’s emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically.” For career preparation, students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) should understand the importance of soft skills. Emotional Quotient (EQ), which is the measure of one’s emotional intelligence, can lead to growth within a company. “People with a high degree of emotional intelligence make more money—an average of $29,000 more per year than people with a low degree of emotional intelligence. The link between emotional intelligence and earnings is so direct that every point increase in emotional intelligence adds $1,300 to an annual salary” (Bradberry & Greaves, 2009). Emotional Intelligence 2.0 by Travis Bradberry and Jean Greaves highlights the importance of controlling emotions that often cloud logic, rational thought. In an emergency emotions can be important in making fast decisions while adrenaline is pumping, but are these helpful in school or the workplace? Good leaders not only have control over their own emotions, but are able to gauge the emotions of their colleagues and assess how best to deal with specific situations.

Have you checked out the Career & Technical Special Populations (CTSP) social media pages such as Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, and Paper.li? We constantly have news and updates through these channels that can provide teachers, parents, guardians and students with great tips and ideas for numerous education topics. Our tweets stay relevant and keep you up to date with education news, tech, classroom and teacher tips, and help related to special populations.

Paper.li is our newest form of media that we are utilizing, which curates Career and Technical Education News every week to keep teachers and the like up to speed on Science, Education, Politics, videos, and pictures related to CTE and CTSP.

Additionally, we recommend checking out the CTSP Blog page for weekly updates and tips for teachers. Blog topics can range from resume writing for those without a four-year degree, recommended education material from the CTSP Educational Resource Library (Which is FREE), and tips for keep students interested throughout the semester. There is a lot of additional material available for checkout, as well as the CTSP online courses. We currently offer 17 courses from which you can earn a total of 26 FREE credits in Texas! Check them out at http://ctsp.tamu.edu/online-courses/

Did you know that over 15,499 individuals have received 54,394 CPE Credits from our online courses?

Check out our Social Media & CTSP Blog for more education news & tips for CTE Teachers and Students!

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Career & Technical Special Populations

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What we do: CTSP Provides access to career and technical education (CTE) and special populations-related multimedia information to teachers, parents, and education professionals throughout Texas.

What We Offer: CTSP Center aids CTE Teachers to better work with special populations. Our resources include: Online courses, showcased Best Practices, multimedia materials, professional development opportunities, in-service trainings for ISDs and ESCs, help for parents, and expert advise on critical topics. Our database contains over 1100 new materials covering a range of CTE and Special Education Topics.

What you Gain: The CTSP Center has received approval from TEA to be a CPE Provider (#500533). CTE Teachers who enroll in and complete our online courses will receive professional development credit.