



Florida Voters, Parents, and Students Overwhelmingly Support Career-Focused Dual Enrollment

The Center for Excellence in Polling recently surveyed likely voters and middle school and high school students in Florida on their views of career and technical education in the Sunshine State's secondary schools.

Florida's current career education dual enrollment program—Career and Professional Education, or CAPE—is relatively unknown even among students. Still, voters across the political spectrum, parents, and students all express support for CAPE and **support career education for middle and high school students**, both in theory and in practice. **Overwhelmingly, those surveyed favor reforms to CAPE** designed to bolster participation in the program. Florida is a national leader in K-12 education and has an opportunity to build meaningfully upon that role by expanding career education in secondary schools.

CAPE is relatively unknown in Florida, even among parents and students, with middle and high school students being the least informed group.

64% ...of middle and high school students say they have read, seen, or **heard not much to nothing at all about CAPE**. While voters, overall, express similar levels of unfamiliarity, parents of middle and high school students are relatively more informed, with only 42 percent saying they have not heard much about the program.

88% ...of likely voters support **requiring schools to inform students and parents about career-focused courses** offered in the district. This information requirement appears especially critical for Floridians because only about one-quarter of students and parents say they received information about dual enrollment from school sources. Family and friends and social media are students' two most important sources of information about CAPE, while social media is the largest source of information for parents.

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Floridians support CAPE and dual enrollment, both in theory and in practice. Large majorities favor meaningful reforms to increase participation among students, and nearly nine in ten voters (87%) say the state should make career-focused education a high or very high priority.

96%

...of likely voters say they think **career-focused education for middle and high school students is very or somewhat important.** High levels of support for career-focused education cut across subgroups, with support nearly universal among Republicans, Democrats, Independents, parents, and students. Support for CAPE specifically is also universally high, with 66 percent of adults and 54 percent of students expressing support, while only three percent and 13 percent, respectively, in opposition. One-third of all respondents don't know enough about the program to have an opinion.

91%

...of likely voters support **increasing participation in career certificate programs** while 86 percent express support for increasing participation in all career-focused courses.

91%

...of likely voters support **requiring school districts to offer at least one career-focused course leading to a career certificate.** Moreover, 86 percent of voters express support for increasing the number of career-focused courses districts are required to offer from two to four.

The bottom line

Career dual enrollment programs provide value to students, the community, and the state by increasing opportunities for meaningful work after graduation. Florida voters, parents, and students alike **see the value in dual enrollment programs and support their expansion.** Florida has the opportunity to continue leading the country in K-12 education and providing meaningful workforce opportunities by expanding career-focused dual enrollment availability and requiring schools to provide information about career dual enrollment to students and their parents.