CTE Research & Recommendations

Presented by:

Illinois Education and Career Student Advisory Council (SAC)

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Board

Project Introduction

The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity and ISBE conducted a survey that received responses from 7,000+ students statewide
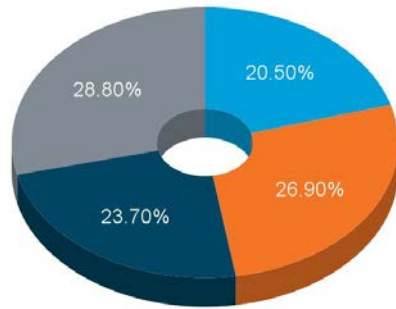
Goal

Help identify barriers to students participating in dual credit and Career and Technical Education

Student Demographics
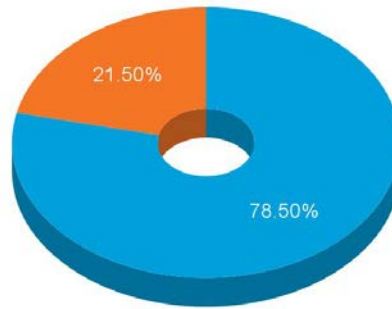
Current Grade
- 20.50% — 9th
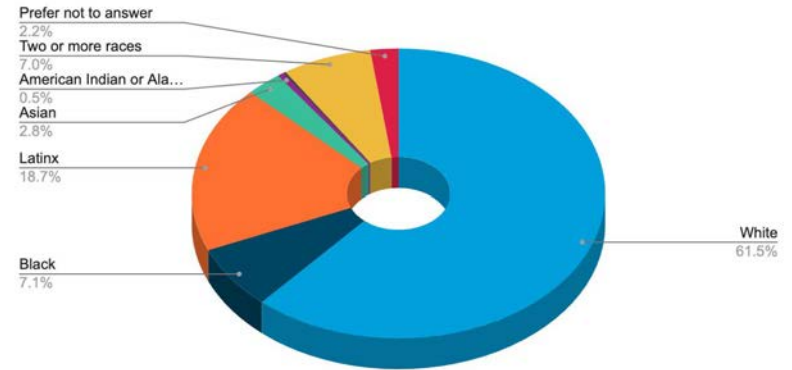- 26.90% — 10th
- 23.70% — 11th
- 28.80% — 12th

Enrolled in ELL
- 78.50% — No
- 21.50% — Yes

Race / Ethnicity
- White 61.5%
- Latinx 18.7%
- Black 7.1%
- Two or more races 7.0%
- Asian 2.8%
- Prefer not to answer 2.2%
- American Indian or Ala… 0.5%

Awareness to Action: *Promoting Equity in Education and Careers*

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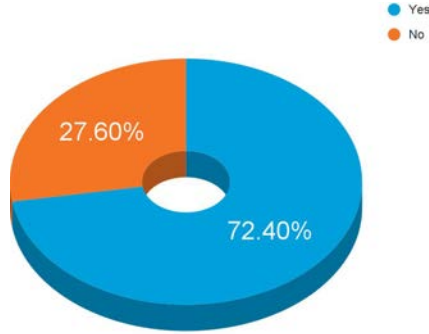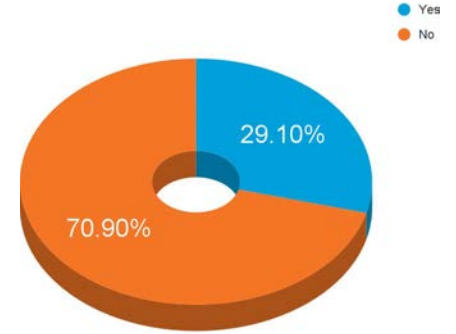
Engagement in College & Career Opportunities (7,382 Responses)

Has your high school counselor discussed college and career opportunities with you?

- Yes
- No

27.60%
72.40%

Have you visited your local community college to learn about college and career opportunities?

- Yes
- No

29.10%
70.90%

Have any visitors discussed college and career opportunities with you at your high school?

- Yes
- No

29.2%
70.8%
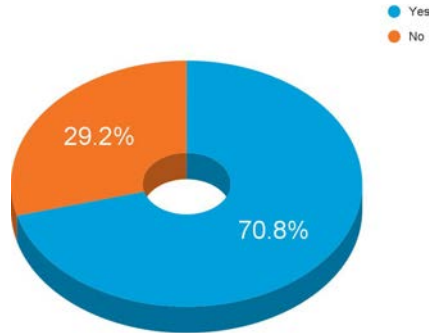
Have you taken any dual credit courses in high school?

- Yes
- No

33%
67%

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Introductions

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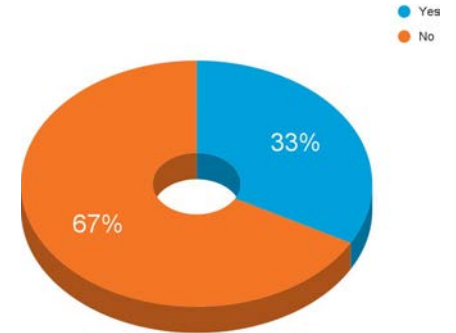
Data Analysis

Data Analysis & Follow-Up

Topics: Dual Credit, Career and Technical Education, CTSOs

Analysis Process

- Qualitative analysis – coding of student responses & understanding themes
- Quantitative analysis
- Creation of graphs

Student Follow-Up

- Discussed and contextualized the data that was collected
- Came up with recommendations to address the barriers that were identified
- Gathered responses to recommendations

Results

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Dual Credit

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Dual Credit: Definition

Dual credit is a college course taken by a high school student that results in the student receiving credit at both the college and high school level.

These courses may be taken at a high school, a college, or some other hybrid environment.

Dual Credit: Participation

Are there barriers that keep you from participating in dual credit courses at your school?

Legend:
- Yes
- No

9.6% Yes
90.4% No
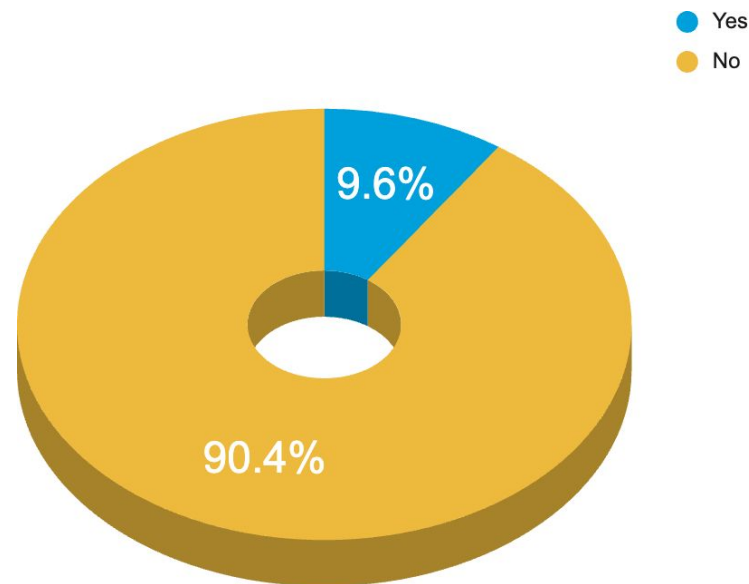
"...community college changed guidelines and no longer offer[s] dual credit in our school."

"You have to pass a test in order to take the dual credit courses as well as meet certain academic requirements."

"I wasn't aware of dual credit options because I wasn't told about them sooner."

"We don't offer very many and when you do sign up for some they don't have the teachers to teach the classes."

"The amount of money that needs to be paid to enroll in the courses. It's very expensive."

"Dual credit classes are only permitted for Juniors and Seniors."

"There's limited spots so there is a lottery system and also you need to transport independently."

"My own mental capacity and ability to beat procrastination."

"Not speaking English is my main barrier."

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Dual Credit: Barriers

What barriers keep you from participating in dual credit courses?

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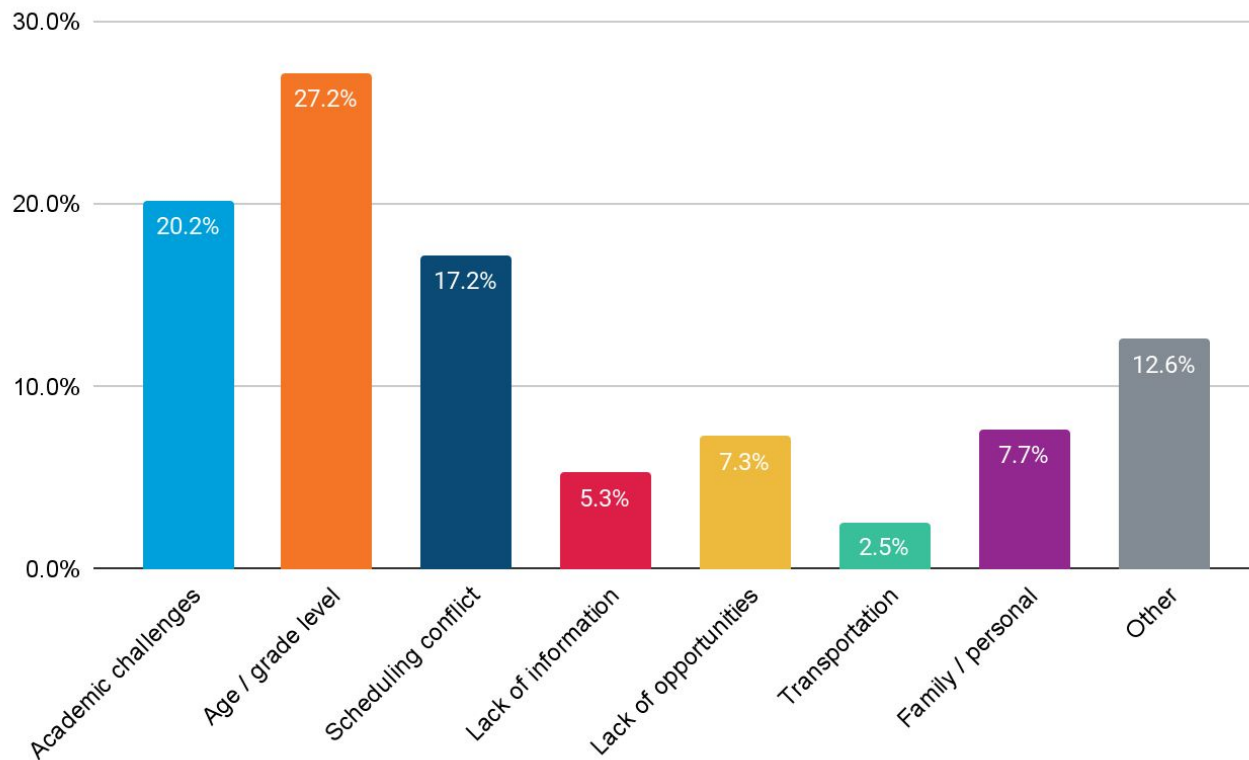
Dual Credit: Recommendations

Theme 1: Make Classes More Accessible

- Reach out to community colleges to discuss offerings and see if high school teachers have the qualifications to teach the dual credit courses at the students' home schools.

- Reach out to the community colleges and discuss ways to resolve certain barriers. Maybe they could find a way to make getting to the classes easier for students by picking the students up at a certain location where everyone can get to, then at the end of the class, drop them off at that same location.

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Dual Credit: Recommendations

Theme 1: Make Classes More Accessible (cont.)

- Explore online options. They can be cheaper, more accessible, and easier to work around.

- Find a way to make courses more financially accessible for regions that have higher costs for dual-credit courses.

- Demystify the stigma around the classes being "hard."

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Dual Credit: Recommendations

Theme 2: Increasing Awareness

- Encouraging counselors about pushing dual credit and making it more widely acknowledged for participation.

- Encourage students to check their course catalog if it is available and to speak with their counselors about potential opportunities that would benefit them in their future.

- Having the school send out emails/information to students about dual credit is helpful.

- Have a presentation between juniors and seniors talking to underclassmen to give them much needed knowledge.

- More outreach to middle schools about the benefits of dual credit and how it can help with postsecondary plans!

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Career and Technical Education (CTE)

CTE: Definition

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in Illinois provide instruction for careers that are in-demand and pay a good salary.

Examples:

- Arts & Communication → Photography, Journalism, Video Production
- Finance & Business → Accounting, Marketing, Entrepreneurship
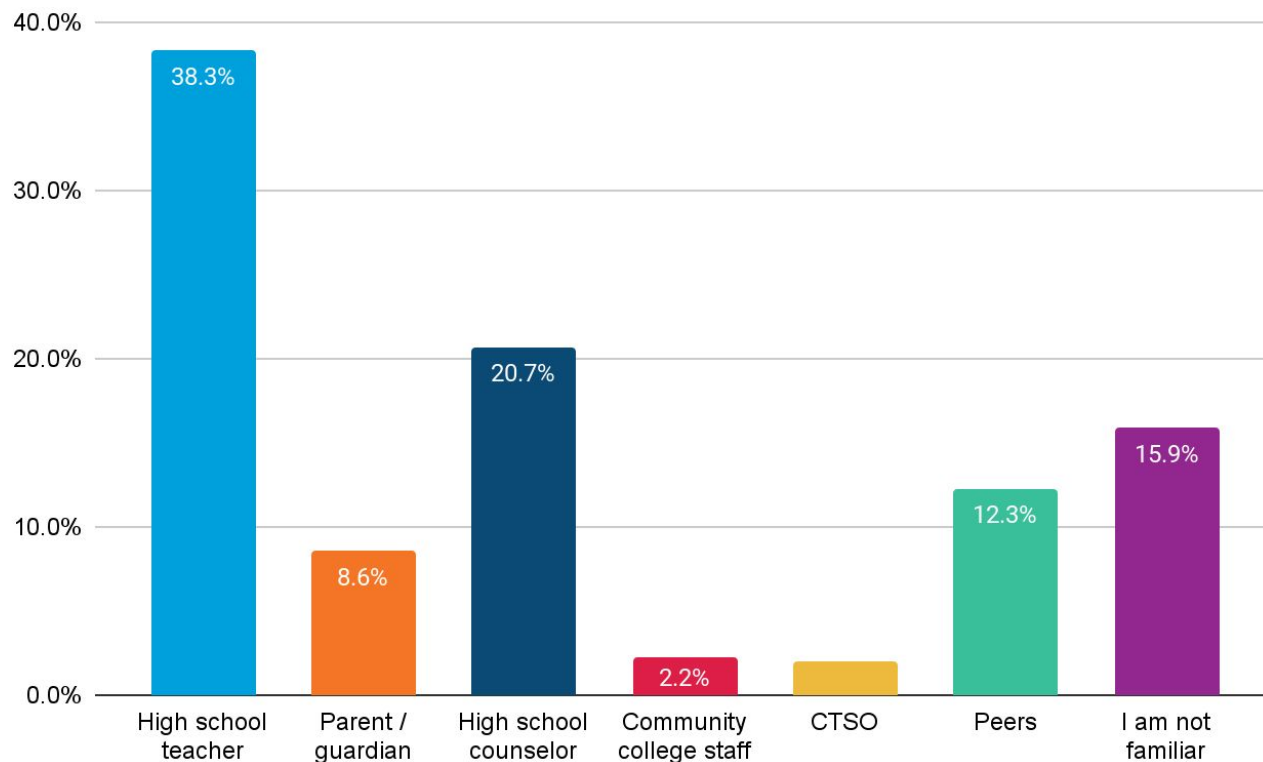
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CTE: Participation

Are there barriers that keep you from participating in a CTE course or program at your school?

Yes
No

4.7%

95.3%

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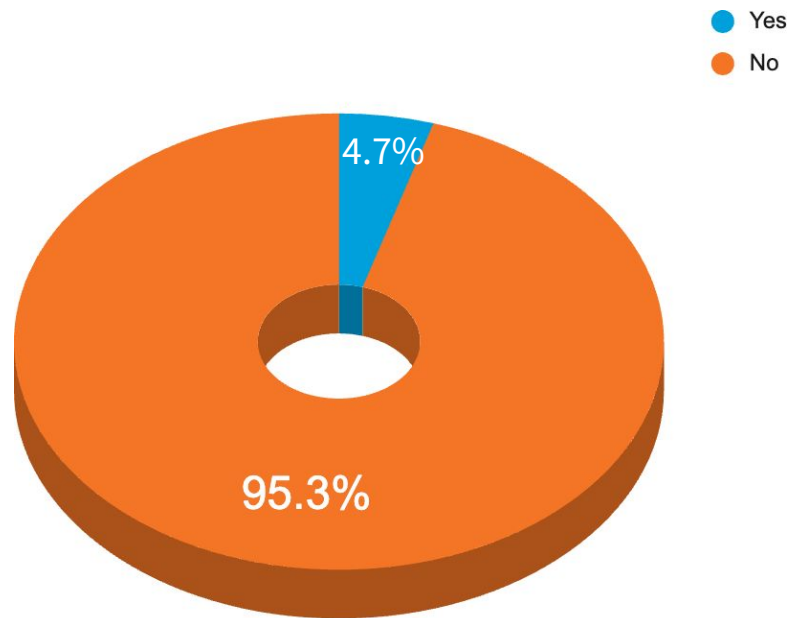
CTE: Awareness

How did you learn about CTE programs offered at your high school?

Bar chart titled with percentages showing responses to "How did you learn about CTE programs offered at your high school?"

- High school teacher: 38.3%
- Parent / guardian: 8.6%
- High school counselor: 20.7%
- Community college staff: 2.2%
- CTSO: (no label shown)
- Peers: 12.3%
- I am not familiar: 15.9%

"They aren't talked about or highlighted in our academic course list so a lot of people including me are unaware of them and what they are."

"I didn't know there was a CTE class."

"We aren't really given the option to take specific courses in school related to specific careers."

"Not enough room in my schedule; limit of two electives."

"My sport. I usually have no time for extra stuff in my schedule."

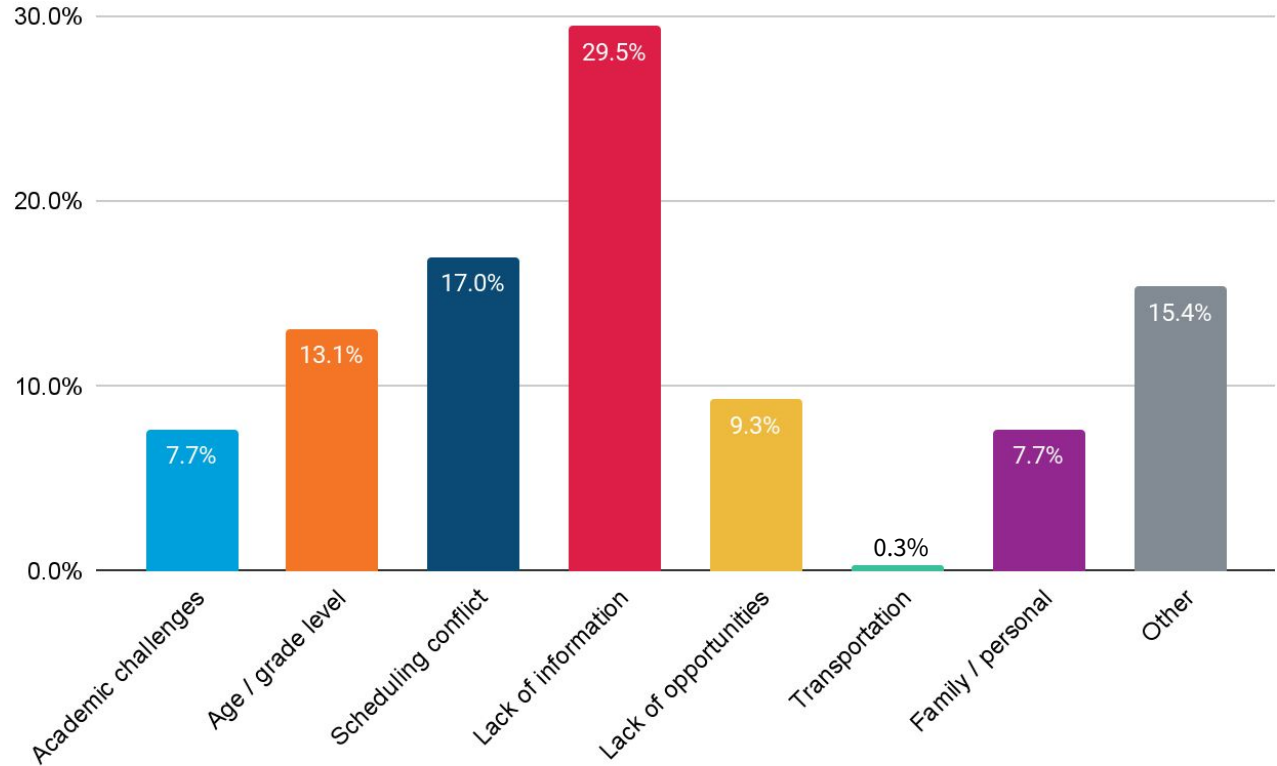"Still not knowing what I will do moving forward."

"Not available for lower classmen. Not easy to sign up for. Not advertised well."

"Grade level and courses required to do those CTE courses"

"Due to my low GPA."

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CTE: Barriers

What barriers keep you from participating in a CTE course or program at your high school?

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CTE: Recommendations

Theme 1: Increasing Accessibility

- Help more students have access to them by making them available all 4 years.

- Recommend offering CTE courses to all ages, and informing students of the CTE courses earlier to prevent scheduling conflicts. Maybe there should be a way to reduce scheduling conflicts. For example, making accommodations for CTE students such as not having a study hall, or having a zero hour.

- Make more of the required math and science courses also count as CTE courses.

CTE: Recommendations

Theme 2: Increasing Awareness

- Counselors should send out a survey of potential future careers to incoming students, and base their CTE courses off of their future careers and interests.

- Try spreading the word about CTE Pathways by hosting in school seminars for high school freshman & sophomore and even invite 8th and 7th grades from local elementary school to really spread the word to everyone. The seminars could be virtual, after school, during school or even before school and maybe weekend for those with scheduling conflicts.

- It would be helpful for more counselors to emphasize that CTE courses are correctly defined for incoming students. For students in CTE, it's also essential that they are informed about additional opportunities that come out of CTE, such as endorsements and scholarships.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

CTSO: Definition

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are organizations of students who represent specific CTE pathways and improve student voice in career education.
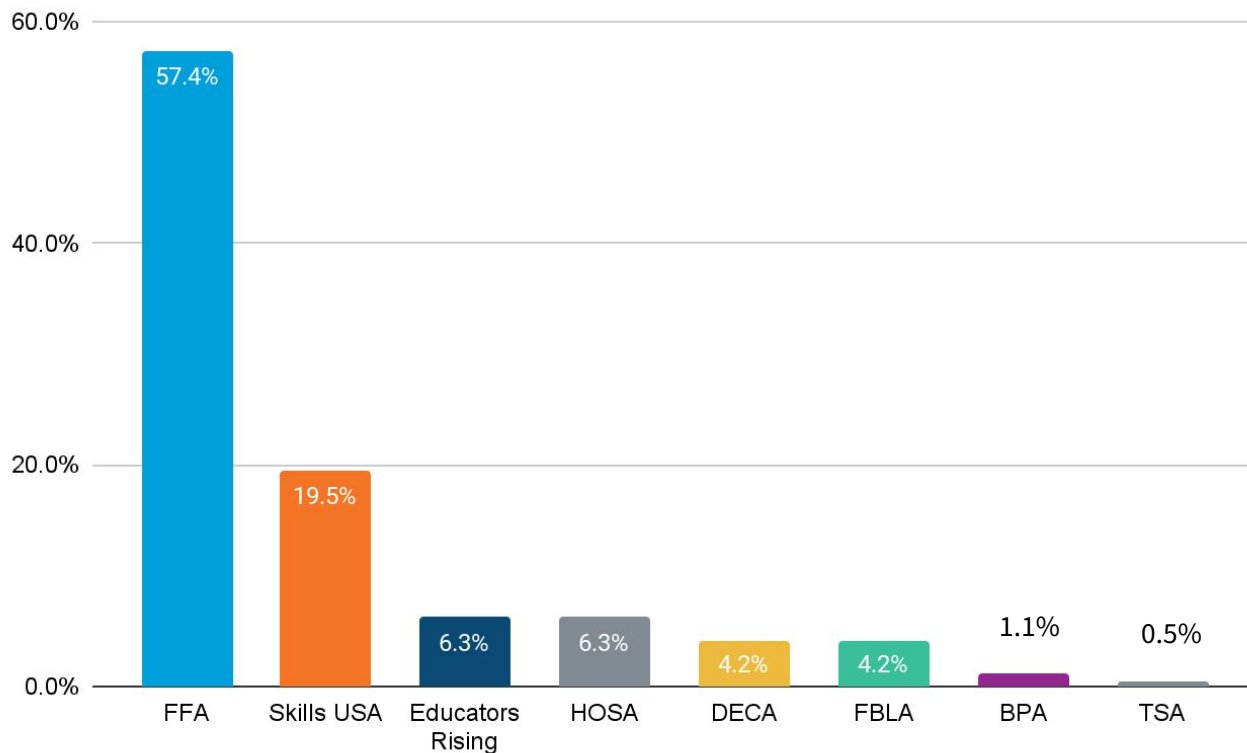
Examples:

- Agriculture → Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Health Sciences → Healthcare Occupation Students of America (HOSA)

CTSO: Participation

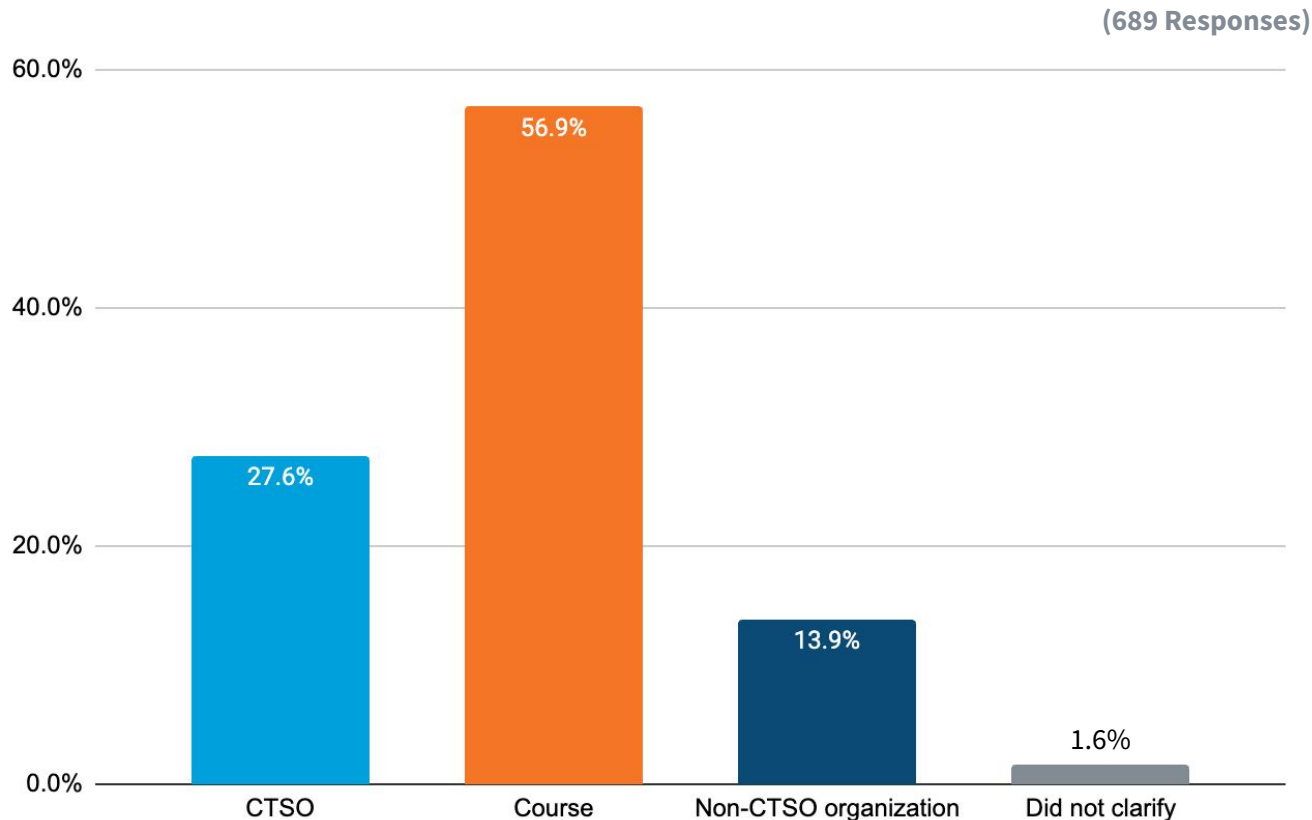Which CTSOs do students participate in?

CTSO: Recommendations

- Clarify what CTSOs are to students.

- Encourage connections with state officers and state CTSOs.

- Advocate for club-sponsored CTSOs.

  - Increase participation in competitive/team-based challenge events.

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Student Q & A

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Student Q & A

- What did you learn from the process of looking at the data and analyzing it?

- What are some takeaways from the data that you would like to share with the audience?
    - Dual Credit
    - CTE

- What has it meant for you to be on the board of the SAC? What are some things that you have learned?

- What has it meant for you to be on the board of the CTSO? What are some things that you have learned?