POSITION STATEMENT

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

National PTA understands that Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide a career pathway through education for students at all levels of academic achievement who wish to gain hands-on experience in an ever-widening array of occupations, many in emerging industries that will dominate the job market in the years to come.

National PTA recognizes that erroneous perceptions of CTE programs persist; namely, that such educational options are limited to the traditional building trades or are suitable only for those who are not qualified for admission to post-secondary institutions.

National PTA also understands that, through recent legislative reauthorization, federal funding can cover most, if not all, student expenses related to CTE, and that evidence indicates significant return on investment and economic benefits for state economies.

National PTA recommends an investment in educating the public regarding recent changes in the scope and nature of CTE programs, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and the benefits of CTE for students at all levels of academic achievement, as well as for the general public.

National PTA supports increased funding for CTE programs, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, as well as providing appropriate market-driven compensation for CTE instructors and promoting flexibility in the expansion of career education pathways.

National PTA strongly advocates for the recruitment of a diverse population of CTE program enrollees so that all individuals have the opportunity to access, fully participate in and contribute to the national and state economic prosperity.

Adopted by the 2020 National PTA Board of Directors