



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WEST-MEC**

### **What is West-MEC?**

West-MEC (Western Maricopa Education Center) is a public high school district focused solely on innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that empower students to enter the workforce and pursue lifelong learning.

CTE programs combine academic and career skill development and provide students with college credits, internship opportunities, and industry certifications.

West-MEC supports 24,000 students enrolled in CTE programs at career-education facilities and on the campuses of 40 high schools in twelve member school districts throughout the northern and western regions of Maricopa County.

### **How will West-MEC benefit TUHSD students?**

West-MEC will substantially increase CTE opportunities and curriculum at each school with the Tolleson Union High School District. Current courses will be upgraded, new classes may be added, and facilities will be enhanced. West-MEC will help TUHSD teachers train our students to pursue higher education opportunities and/or enter the workforce. West-MEC has demonstrated community support for increased job training opportunities for all students.

If West-MEC is approved, it will mean an additional \$750,000 (approximately) a year will benefit TUHSD schools and the CTE programs that are already operating on each of our campuses. This amount of funding is based on the 2,200 students who are presently taking CTE classes at our schools.

West-MEC will provide:

- TUHSD students an opportunity to participate in eight central programs including Automotive Technology, Aviation Technology, Cosmetology, and EMT and Fire Science.
- Potential future programs that might include Pharmacy Tech, Aerospace Engineering, Veterinary Technology, Surgical Tech, and Air Traffic Controller.
- Teachers the opportunity to participate in professional development classes that will enhance their delivery of instruction.
- TUHSD schools the ability to create Career Centers where students will receive career counseling and guidance.

## What will joining West-MEC cost a TUHSD taxpayer?

If TUHSD voters approve the District joining West-MEC, it will cost homeowners \$5.00 a year on a home with a full cash value of \$100,000.

## How many TUHSD students are enrolled in CTE?

Currently there are over **2,200 TUHSD students enrolled in CTE classes** throughout the district. The majority of students take CTE classes on their home campus, but there are several students who are participating in CTE programs (Cosmetology and Auto Technology) at central locations.

## What CTE classes are offered in TUHSD?

The Tolleson Union High School District currently offers the following classes:

|                     |                 |             |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Culinary Arts       | Marketing       | Carpentry   |
| Sports Medicine     | Early Childhood | Electronics |
| Business Operations | Bioscience      | Finance     |
| Fashion             | Drafting        |             |
| Welding             | Auto Tech       |             |
| IT Programming      |                 |             |

## What are the four components of the CTE Model?

CTE is an instructional delivery system that gives students a well-rounded learning experience. CTE focuses on classroom and interactive laboratory instruction. Students also participate in personal and leadership development through Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). The CTE Program Delivery Model is comprised of four components:

1. Classroom Instruction
2. Hands-On Instruction
3. Career-Based Experience
4. Leadership Development

## How do CTE students perform academically?

- **92%** of students who completed a CTE program passed AIMS Math as compared to a passing rate of 70% for all other students.
- **95%** of students who completed a CTE program passed AIMS Reading as compared to a passing rate of 75% for all other students.
- **96%** of students who completed a CTE program passed AIMS Writing as compared to a passing rate of 72% for all other students.
- **99%** of students who completed a CTE program graduated on time as compared to 76% for all other students.

## How will CTE prepare students for the future?

- Of the **30 jobs projected to grow** at the fastest rate over the next decade in the United States, **only seven require a Bachelor's degree.**
- Students who take at least three CTE courses during high school **earn on average \$2,500 more** per year than other students.
- Many CTE programs enable students to earn industry validated certifications.