



Survey of CTE Trends and Challenges

Executive Summary

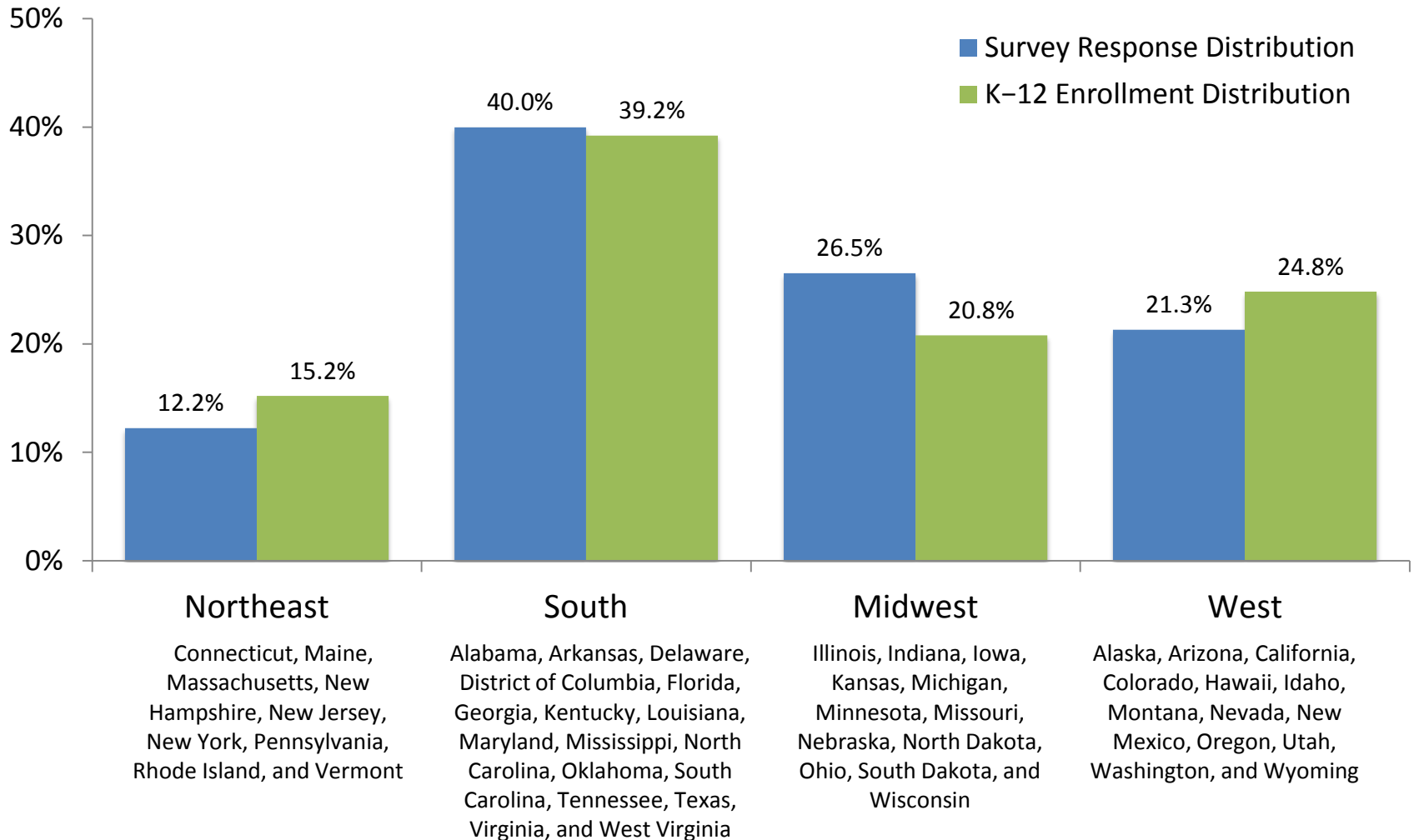
Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) is a global nonprofit organization that creates learning opportunities for people around the world, empowering them to pursue healthier, more productive lives. A leader in bridging career and technical education (CTE) and academic education, EDC commissioned a survey to explore the experiences and interests of CTE educators across the country. This is a summary of our key findings. A white paper, drawing on the survey and interviews with state CTE leaders, will be published in early March 2014 (<http://ltd.edc.org/resource-library/CTEwhitepaper>).

Please use the following citation for this summary: Education Development Center, Inc. (2014). *CTE trends and challenges: Executive summary*. Waltham, MA: Author. Retrieved from <http://ltd.edc.org/resource-library/survey-cte>

CTE Trends and Challenges Survey Overview

- More than 20,000 invitations extended to CTE district and school leaders across the country:
 - Yield for respondents with responsibility or influence on decisions was 850 (~4.2% response rate)
- Survey goal: To understand CTE trends and challenges in several areas:
 - Budgets
 - Enrollments
 - Programs and career clusters
 - Instructional resources
 - Professional development
- Survey was conducted from September 18, 2013 to October 9, 2013.

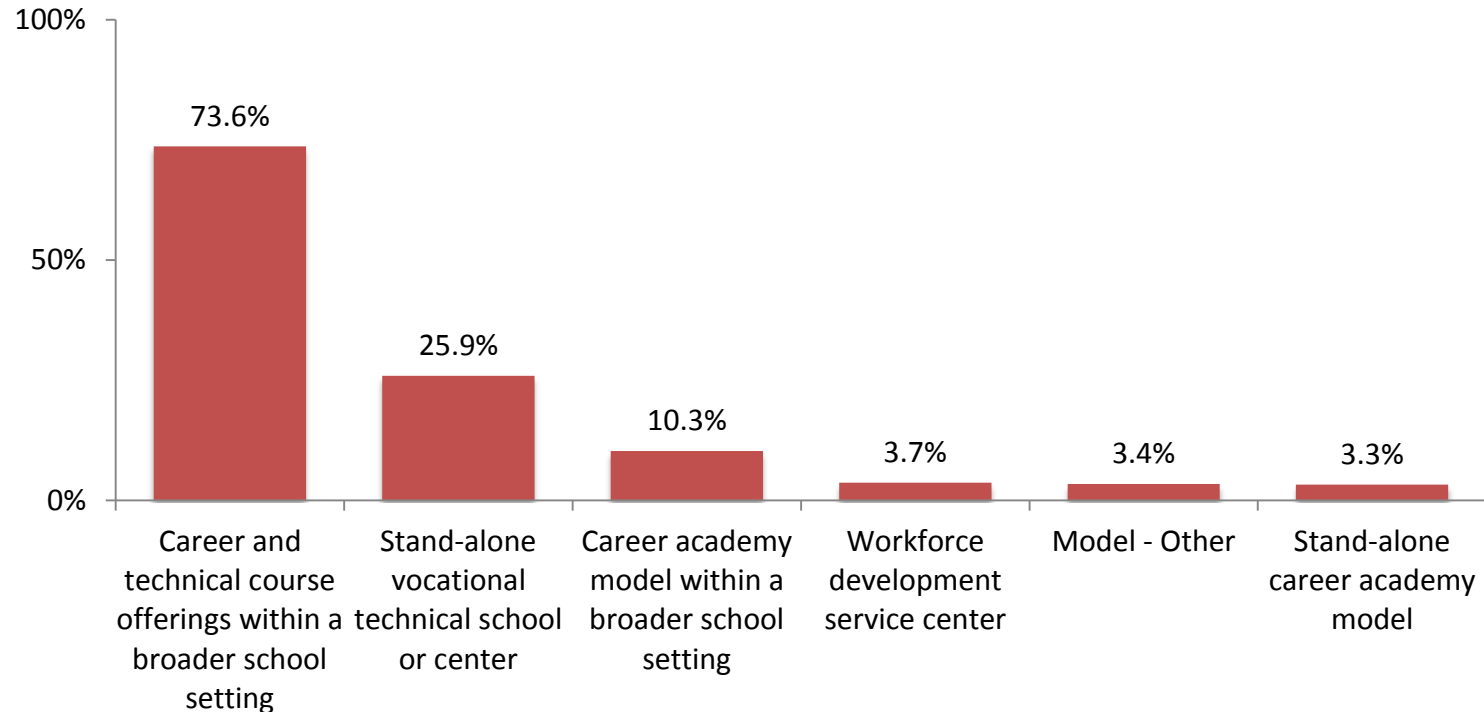
Respondents by Region



*Source for K-12 enrollment distribution is National Center for Education Statistics

Respondents by CTE Program Model

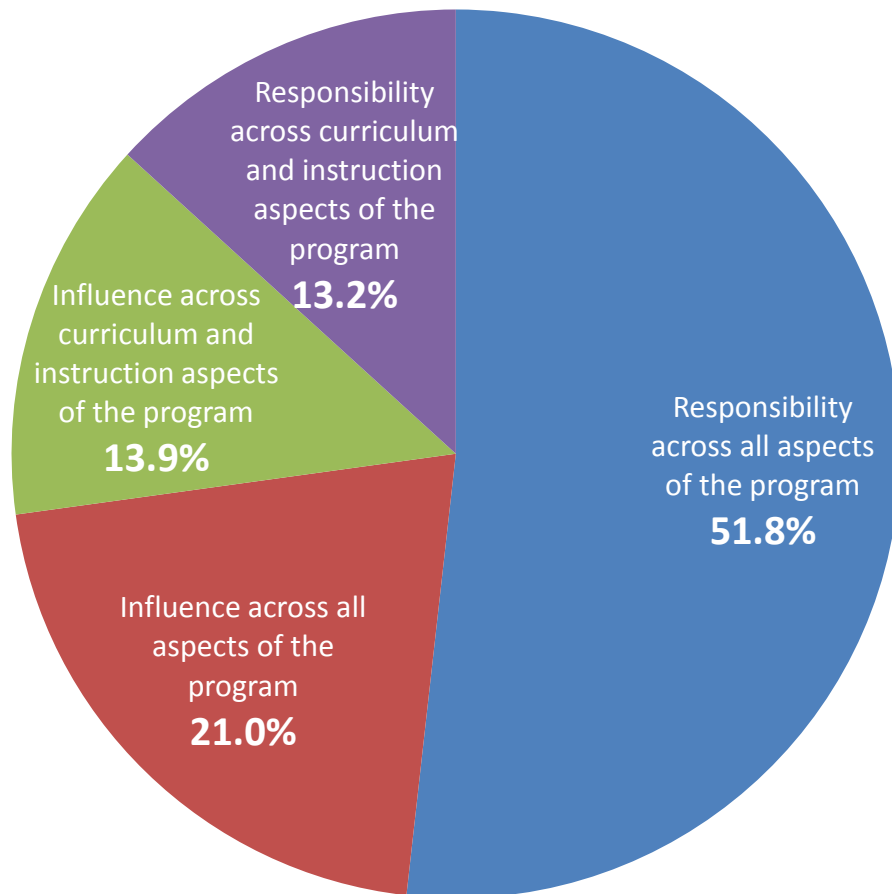
How would you describe your primary CTE model?



- Vast majority of respondents are affiliated with CTE programs within broader school context
- Most significant secondary population of respondents are from vocational technical schools

Respondents by Decision-Making Role

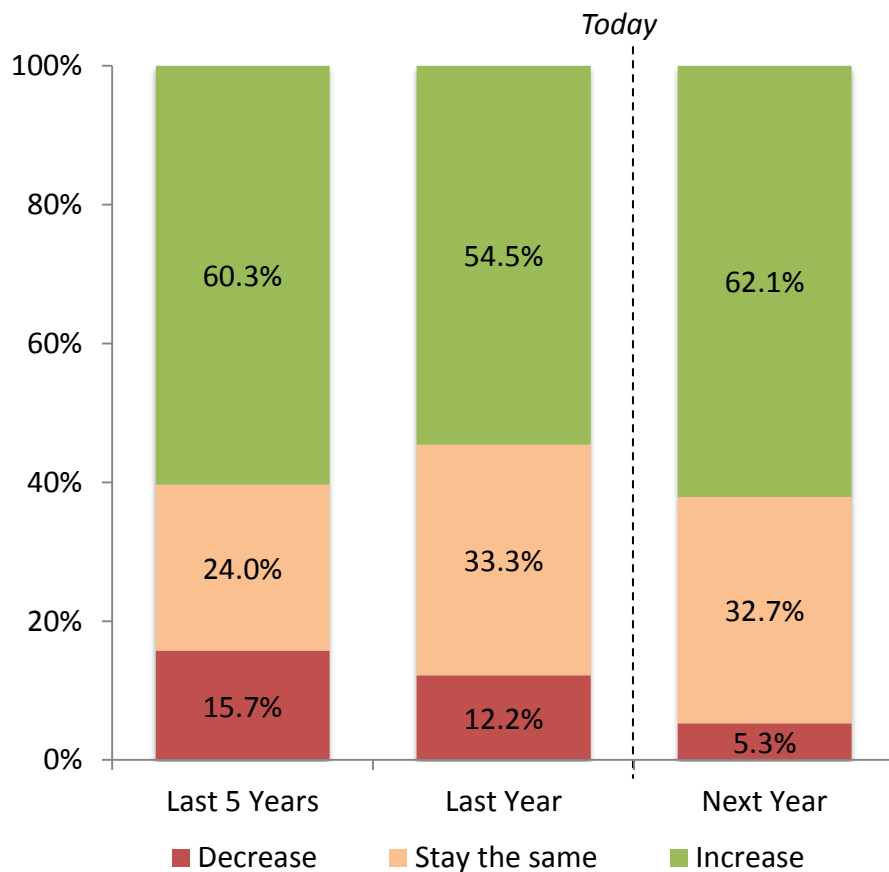
Select the statement that best describes your role within your organization's CTE program.



- Nearly two-thirds of respondents have full or partial responsibility for CTE programs at district or school level.
- More than a quarter of respondents identified themselves as focused on CTE curriculum and instruction issues.

Historical and Forecasted CTE Enrollment Growth

Select the option that best describes enrollment growth in your organization's CTE program.

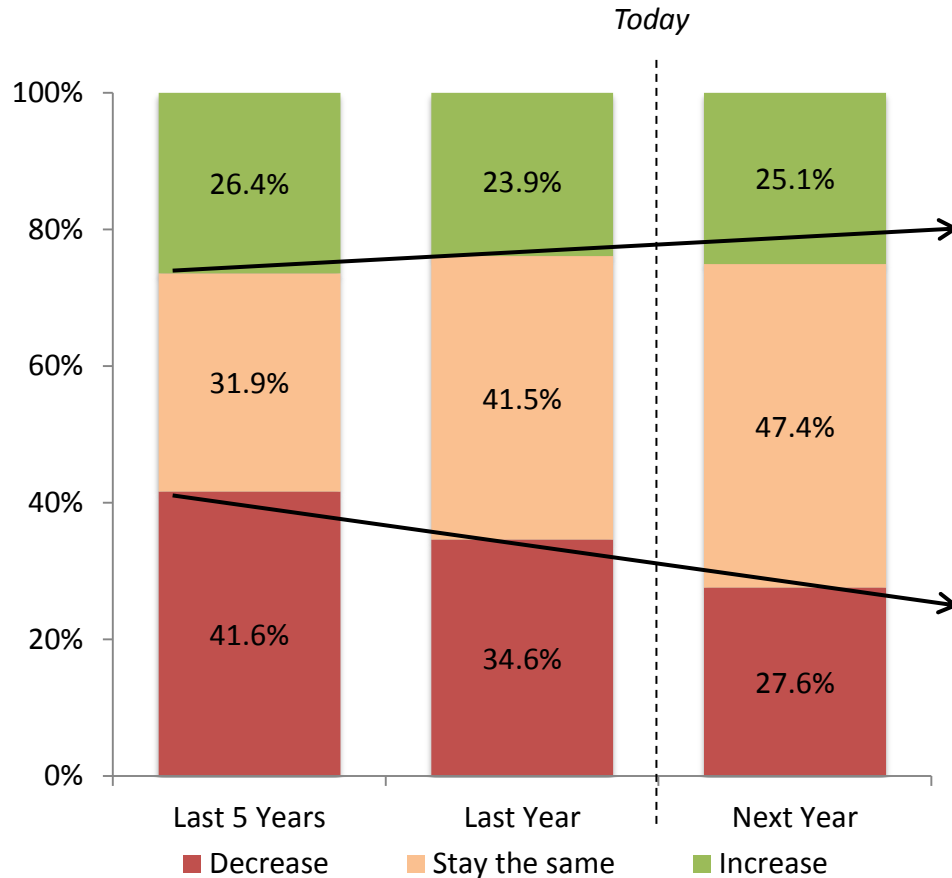


- Majority of respondents have seen student enrollment growth in CTE programs across all three time periods.
- More than 40% of respondents reported that enrollments had grown more than 5% across the past five years.
- Continued expansion in enrollments (i.e., “Next Year”) is indicative of increased visibility and interest in career readiness initiatives.

n = 704+

Historical and Projected CTE Budget Growth

Select the option that best describes budget growth in your organization's CTE program.

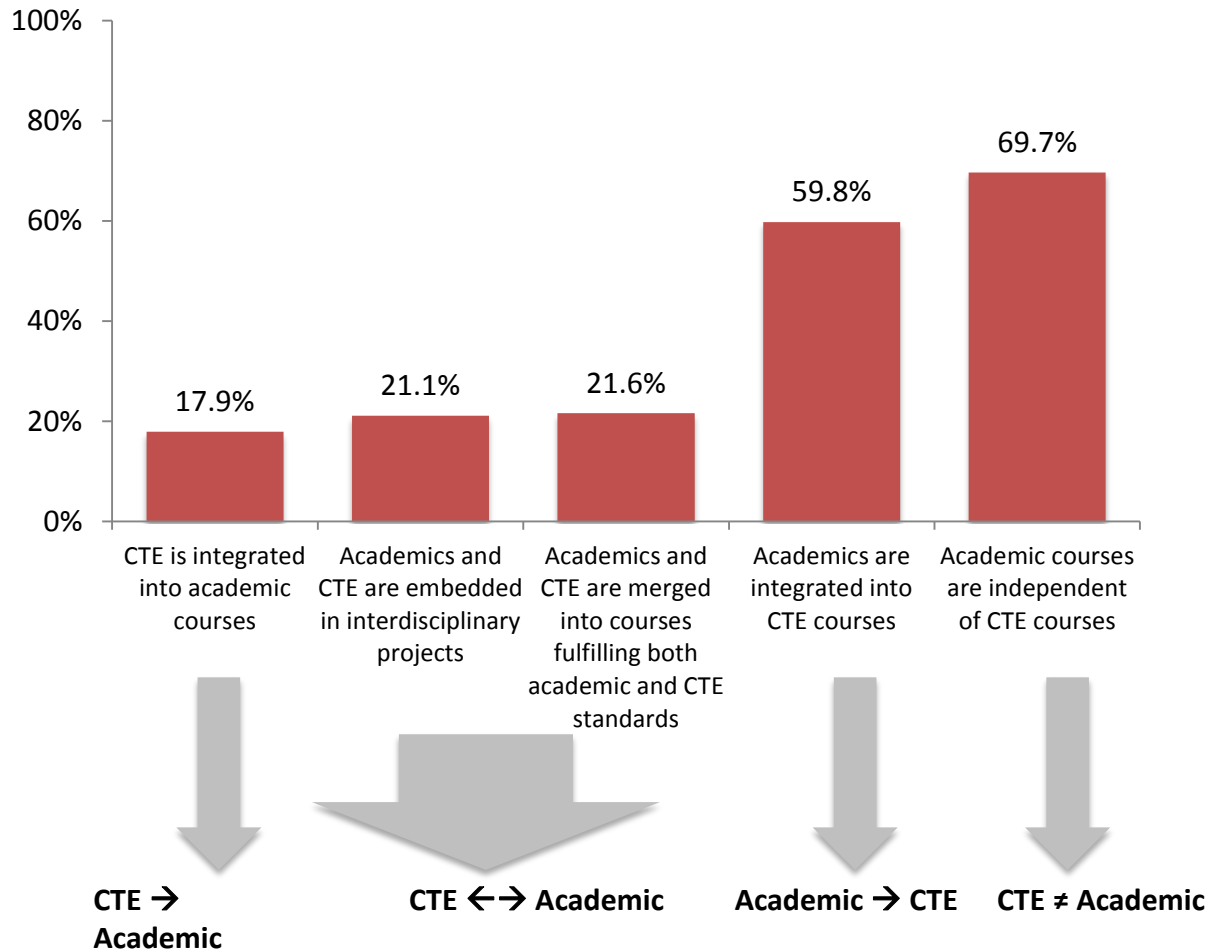


- More than 73% of respondents reported flat or declining budgets during the past five years.
- Yet looking across all three time periods, respondents seem to suggest that CTE budgets are stabilizing.
- Of respondents indicating budget increases, only ~20% reported that those increases were greater than 5% for last year and anticipated for next year.

n = 642+

CTE and Academic Instruction

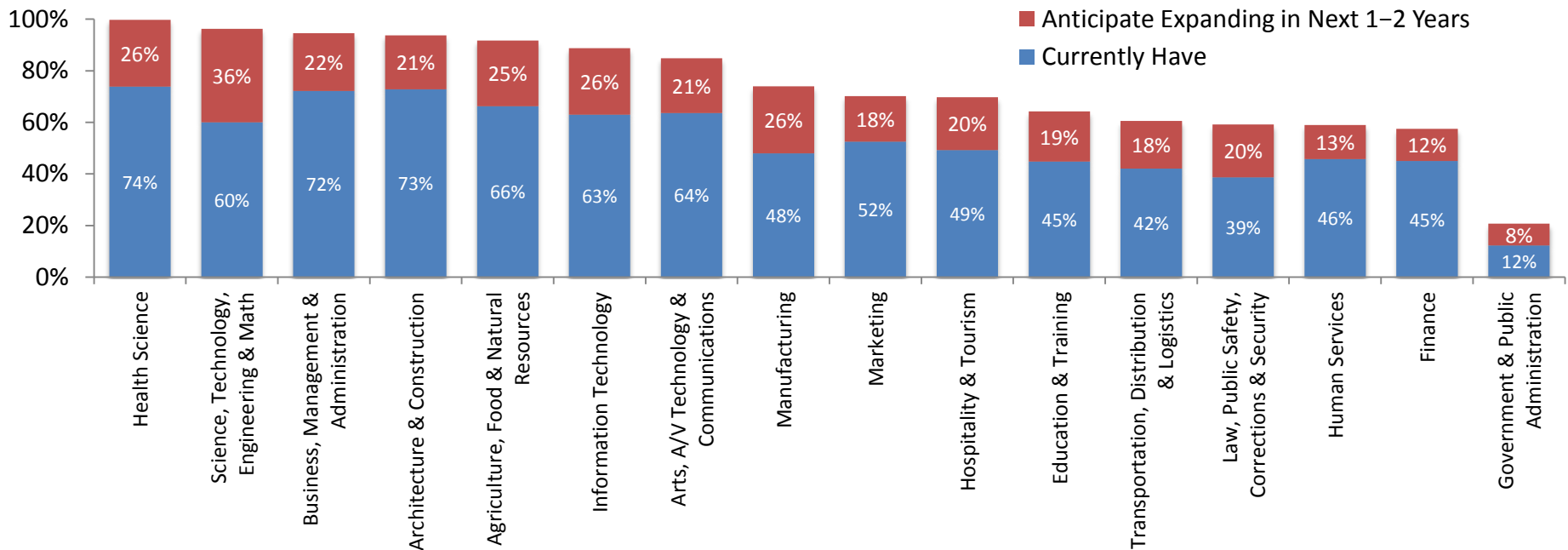
How do CTE students experience academics?



- Approximately 7 out of 10 respondents view academic courses as independent of CTE courses.
- *“CTE should be more fully integrated with the ‘standard’ curriculum areas at all levels.”*
— Survey respondent

Current and Anticipated Career Cluster Program Activity

Please indicate the Career Clusters in which your organization currently offers courses and those in which you anticipate expanding your offerings within the next two years.



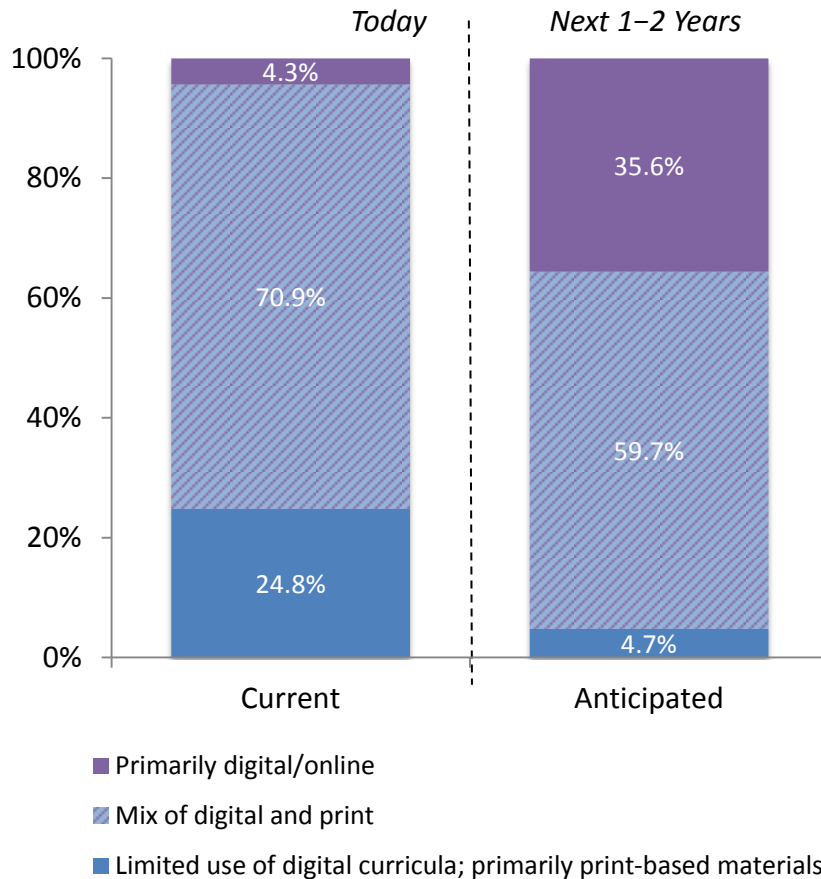
- More than one-third of respondents cited STEM as an area of anticipated expansion in the next one to two years.

n (today) = 778
n (1-2 years) = 401

- In addition, 20%+ of respondents anticipate expansion across nine Career Clusters in the coming years.

Current and Future Approach to Use of Digital/Online Instructional Materials

Which statement best describes your organization's approach to use of digital/online instructional materials for your CTE programs?

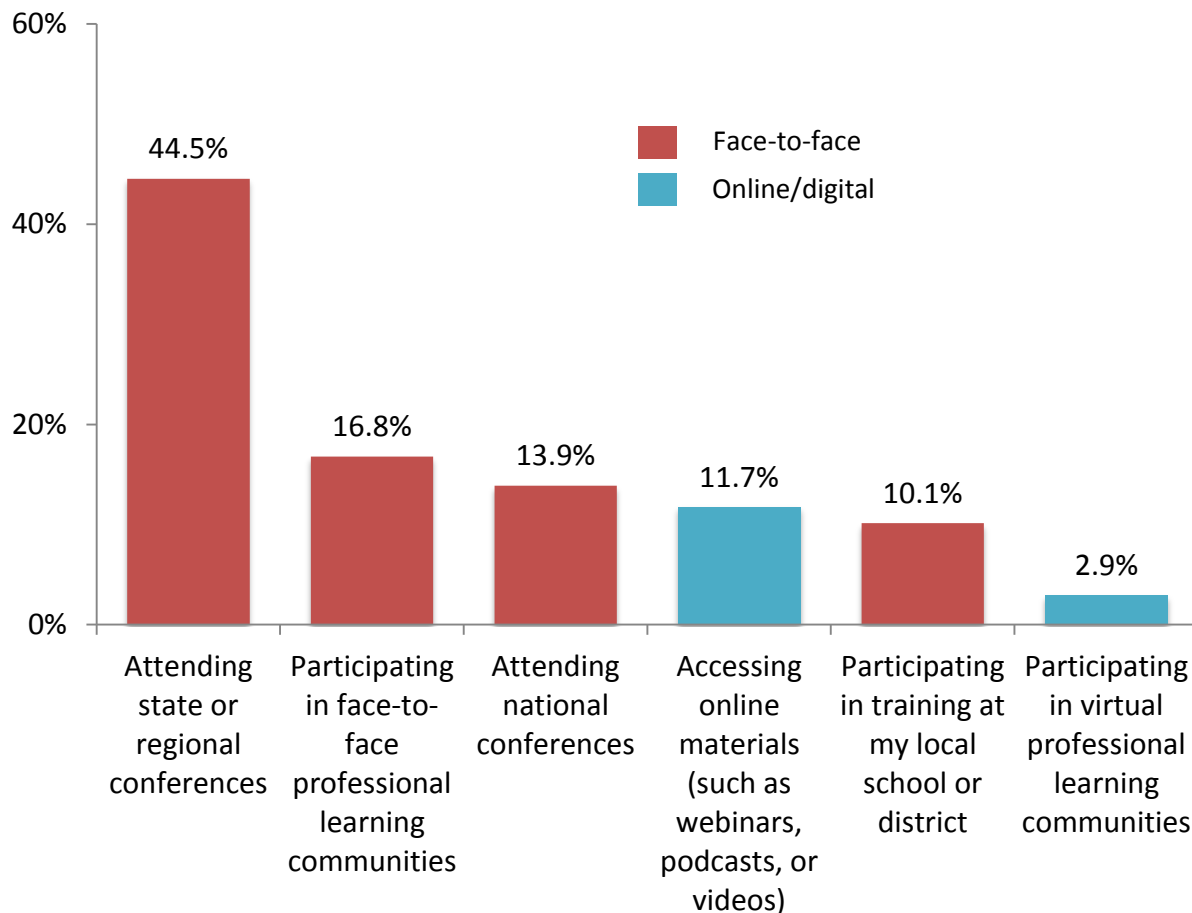


- Significant expansion in percentage of respondents forecasting shift to primarily digital/online instructional materials.
- More than one-third of respondents anticipate CTE programs driven principally by digital/online instructional materials.
- CTE transition to digital instructional resources is consistent with trend in other primary disciplines.

n (today) = 743
 n (1-2 years) = 486

Preferred Types of CTE-Related Professional Development

How do you specifically prefer to access CTE-related professional development?



- Respondents prefer accessing CTE-related professional development through face-to-face modalities rather than online or digital channels.
- Attending state or regional conferences is the most preferred type of CTE-related professional development.

n = 388

EDC appreciates the assistance provided by the Association for Career and Technical Education.

We thank the 850 survey participants and 11 CTE state leaders we interviewed for taking the time to share their insights on CTE trends and challenges.

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