

Career and Technical Student Organizations



Washington state has eight recognized Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) that have a definite impact on student's overall college and career readiness. CTSOs provide relevant, engaging programs that improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates, and help students discover the wide range of career options available. CTSOs engage the community and local businesses to help students understand global competition, develop 21st century skills focused on creativity, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, and chart effective and efficient pathways through high school and postsecondary education for their personal success. Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students.



Washington DECA

DECA was founded in 1943 and prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Washington DECA is the fifth largest DECA association in the world, with over 12,000 members in 164 high schools and skill centers. DECA provides experiential, career connected learning opportunities. By creating partnerships between business and education, Washington DECA maximizes real-world experiences to develop students into leaders and entrepreneurs.

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Washington FFA Association

The National FFA Organization was founded in 1928 and the Washington FFA Association was chartered in 1930. The "Future Farmers of America" was founded by a group of young farmers whose mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. Today, the organization expands beyond the view of "traditional" agriculture and combines agriculture education, science, leadership, and career skills that position FFA members to rise to the challenges of our modern world. The National FFA Organization provides a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success for all members. Members are future producers, chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, educators, and premier professionals in many career fields.

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Washington Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

FCCLA was founded in 1945 and involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life. FCCLA students are able to attend conferences and participate in competitive events at the state and national level. FCCLA students' career interests are in education, food, hospitality, interior design, and textiles (sewing, fashion). FCCLA members focus on the roles of family member, wage earner and community leader. Members develop skills for life including character development, creative and critical thinking, and interpersonal communication.

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Washington Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. FBLA was founded in 1940 and provides students with professional development, networking opportunities, real-world experiences, and valuable connections to business and industry partners. Students gain valuable leadership skills by planning and participating in community service, developing speaking and presentation skills, and attending conferences.

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Washington HOSA Future Health Professionals

HOSA, founded in 1976, is a national organization for students exploring health care careers. Students gain leadership and technical skill competencies through a program of motivation, awareness, and recognition, which is an integral part of the Health Science Education instructional program. Students attend conferences, participate in competitive events, and network with peers and healthcare industry partners.

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SkillsUSA Washington

SkillsUSA Washington is a state and national membership association serving high school, college, and middle school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. The organization is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA serves more than 331,000 students and instructors annually. This includes 19,019 instructors who join as professional members. Including alumni, the annual membership totals over 393,000. SkillsUSA has served nearly 14 million members cumulatively since 1965 and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor as a successful model of employer-driven workforce development. As an organization they strive to connect future employers with our skilled members to create job opportunities as early as right out of high school. SkillsUSA is helping bridge the recognized skills gap.

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Washington Technology Student Association (TSA)

TSA serves students interested in STEM-related careers such as engineering, architecture, pre-med, biotechnology, robotics, computer aided design, aeronautical engineering and more. Founded in 1987, TSA now has 150 chapters and more than 11,000 middle and high schools' students across Washington. TSA is experiencing growth within the state and the nation as more and more careers become technology-based or include a technology component. TSA focuses on personal growth, leadership, and professional skills development, as well as co-curricular activities, industry mentoring, and regional, state, and national competitions that are correlated with national STEM standards.

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Washington Career and Technical Sports Medicine Association (WCTSMA)

WCTSMA is a student organization founded in 1994, which is dedicated to ensuring high-quality athletic medicine and healthcare at high schools, and to raising awareness about health quality among school administrators, coaches, athletes, students, and the general public. Students gain leadership and skills competencies when they participate in competitions and network with professionals. Students gain career and college readiness skills in sports medicine and related careers, and learn how to help others develop, grow, and succeed, both on and off the field.

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