

# Bone Diagram

## Drivers

All students will graduate on-time prepared for the future.

Board of Education Interest

Support of Career Academies from Business

Cohort Model helps students feel connected.

Student Interest Inventory Data

Role of CTE in preventing dropouts & providing

for:

- Rigor
- Relevance
- Relationships

## Method

1. Analyze data
2. Research best practices
3. Develop a WCPSS Model

## Current Status

07-08

64,337 students

26,357 Middle

37,980 High

1711 students of the class of 2008

did not graduate

How many did not take CTE?

10 Career Academies

Range of 30 to 275 students per

academy

## Desired Status

Equal access to CTE

programs/academies

Continued Support of Business

Data-Driven Strategic Planning

Increased # of students graduating

## Restrainers / Parameters

Facilities

Geography of WCPSS

Transportation

Magnet Programs

Growth Management

Current Practice – Site-based decisions

Making academies attractive to college-

bound students.

Hiring qualified personnel.

Equitable distribution of resources.

Need to reflect the diversity of the

school.



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TO: Donna Hargens  
FROM: David Rockefeller  
DATE: November 3, 2008  
SUBJECT: Central Educational Center (CEC)

This is in response to your request for a brief summary of the main features of the Central Educational Center (CEC) in Newnan, Georgia, which our visiting team found to be particularly noteworthy. The visit was conducted on October 28, and our team members were:

David Rockefeller, WCPSS Director of Career and Technical Education  
Chris Droessler, WCPSS School-to-Career Coordinator  
Megan Kirkpatrick, WCPSS Business Alliance Coordinator  
Rob Matheson, Apex High School Assistant Principal for Instruction

- The genesis of the concept of the school was an outgrowth of a request approximately ten years ago by local business and industry representatives to the Coweta County Public School System to produce workers who were better prepared to enter the workforce than they currently were with a general high school diploma. Students who left high school and went to four-year colleges were less likely to return to Coweta County to work and contribute to the local economy. The school system responded favorably and asked the business community to be actively involved in the design of the school. The fundamental philosophy that drove the development of the school was that "education = economic development."
- The facility is a converted comprehensive high school/middle school, located near the geographical center of the county, making it more accessible to all Coweta County students. It is owned by the Coweta County Board of Education, with an intergovernmental agreement with West Central Technical College (WCTC).
- During the three-year planning time for the school, they received \$10 million in grants. It took approximately \$20 million to prepare the facility for its opening. That money came from grants, a local tax initiative dedicated specifically to the school, and contributions from local businesses.
- The school serves as both a career center for high school students and as the main campus of the West Central Technical College. Classrooms and labs are used from 8:00AM to 10:00PM by both public school and technical college students.
- The CEC and WCTC instructional calendars are aligned to promote concurrent enrollment and efficient use of the facility. 25% of CEC high school students are concurrently enrolled in technical college courses.
- The school is built on a business model, with teachers called "directors" and students called "team members." The head of the school, Mark Whitlock, is the CEO.
- Students have opportunities to earn industry certifications in most curricular areas while still in high school.

- Most instruction in most CTE course is project-based, with a large percentage of hands-on learning intended to prepare students for employment.
- Business and industry advisory committees support each curricular area.
- There are 22,000 students in Coweta County Schools. CEC serves as the source of most Career and Technical Education courses for all three Coweta County high schools. Only Business Education and Family and Consumer Sciences Education courses are taught at the three comprehensive high schools.
- Most students take their core academic courses at their assigned high schools and are bused to the CEC for their agriculture, health occupations, technology, and trade & industrial education courses. Some seniors take upper level math and English courses at CEC and spend their entire school day there.
- As a charter school, CEC has more flexibility in hiring teachers who do not hold traditional teaching licenses, particularly in the trades areas.
- The state of Georgia currently has a 75.4% graduation rate. CEC has an 87% graduation rate. The graduation rate is 98% for high school students who also complete a certification program while in high school.