



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Middle School Competencies

Career Cluster:

M11-Digital Technology

May 2026



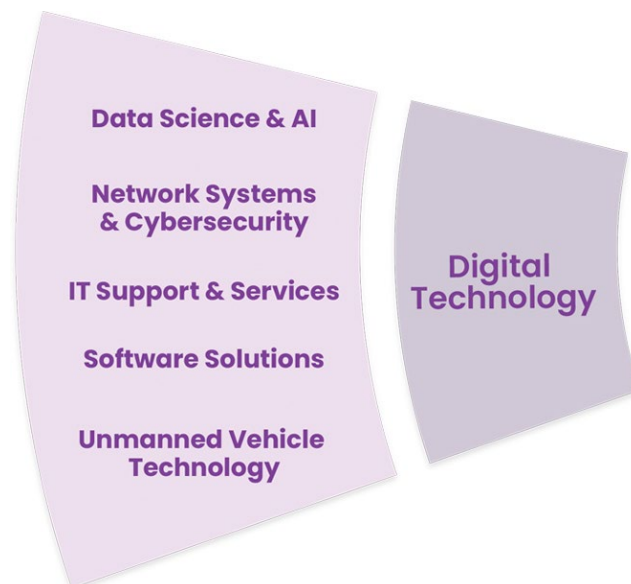
M11-Digital Technology: Modernizing Industries and Connecting Communities

Cluster Definition: The Digital Technology Career Cluster focuses on developing digital systems for communication and data storage using critical technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, and cybersecurity. This Cluster builds skills necessary for all careers to navigate and lead in the constantly evolving tech landscape and drives innovation across all industries to tackle complex challenges and opportunities in communities and economies.

Sub-Clusters:

- Data Science & Artificial Intelligence
- Information Technology (IT) Support & Services
- Network Systems & Cybersecurity
- Software Solutions
- Unmanned Vehicle Technology
- Web & Cloud

More details can be found at [Digital Technology - Advance CTE](#)



Middle School Competencies

The MS Instructional Design form will be used to communicate the delivery model of the program, which will also be entered into the Career and Technical Education Information System (CTEIS).

Competency Code	M11 Digital Technology Middle School Competency Statements
M1	Evaluate safe and responsible behaviors when using digital devices, including cybersecurity practices such as protecting personal information, recognizing secure connections, and creating strong passwords.
M2	Explain how digital systems operate to enable communication, data storage, and connectivity across networks and digital platforms.
M3	Analyze how data is collected, organized, and used to support decision making, and describe how artificial intelligence systems learn and make predictions.
M4	Apply basic troubleshooting strategies—such as restarting devices, checking connections, or updating software—to identify and solve common technology issues.
M5	Differentiate among types of network systems and security measures, describing how tools like firewalls, secure WiFi, and authentication methods help prevent cyber threats.
M6	Create simple software solutions—such as games, animations, or interactive stories—using foundational coding skills and user-centered design principles.
M7	Assess ethical digital citizenship practices, including online privacy, respectful communication, intellectual property, and awareness of bias in digital technologies.
M8	Explore careers in the Digital Technology Career Cluster and connect the opportunities to personal interests, strengths, and future goals.

Advance CTE Career Ready Practices

Career Ready Practices, built on a meta-analysis of over 30 different listings of general professional skills developed by industry and educational institutions, represent the skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace. These practices should be embedded across the pre-kindergarten to workforce continuum. Refer to the [Advance CTE Career Ready Practices](#) document for more detailed information.

Competency Code	Career Ready Practices
CRP 01	Lead as a contributing and professional employee
CRP 02	Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason
CRP 03	Think critically to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
CRP 04	Collaborate productively while using cultural and global competencies
CRP 05	Use digital skills and technologies to enhance productivity and make data-informed decisions
CRP 06	Remain resilient in a changing workplace and world of work
CRP 07	Manage time and space effectively
CRP 08	Demonstrate a creative and innovative mindset
CRP 09	Act as a good steward of organizational and personal finances and resources
CRP 10	Navigate an education and career path aligned to strengths, work style, interests, and goals
CRP 11	Consider the environmental and social impacts of decisions
CRP 12	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills