



Charter System
Foundation

USING ACCELERATED CAREER EDUCATION TO EMPOWER STUDENTS

STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE



The Charter System Foundation is a nonprofit that supports Georgia's 48 charter systems and all of Georgia's 57 college and career academies. We are dedicated to providing high school students with opportunities to build successful careers through Georgia's technical colleges. By bridging education and industry, we help districts equip students with the skills needed for high-demand careers upon graduation through Georgia's Accelerated Career Education program.



ALYSSA (Age 19)
Chattahoochee County School Nurse

Earning state certification in high school through the healthcare pathway allowed me to complete a senior-year apprenticeship as a certified nurse assistant. With experience and coursework in hand, I seamlessly entered the LPN program. Now, I've returned to my high school as a school nurse, filling a critical role and giving back to the community that shaped me.

Why This Matters for Georgia



Workforce Development
Address critical industry shortages by preparing students for high-demand careers upon graduation.



Economic Growth
A skilled workforce attracts businesses, drives innovation, and boosts our state's economy.



Affordable Education
The new ACE Grant makes technical education accessible and eliminates student debt.

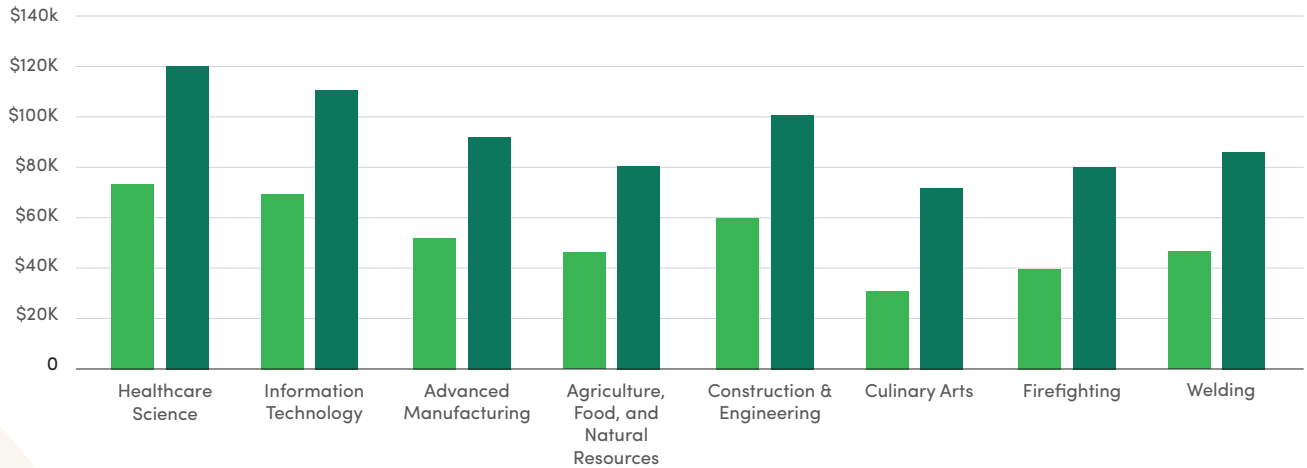


Educational Innovation
An Accelerated Career Education provides hands-on, real-world learning that engages students and enhances graduation rates.

PATH TO SUCCESS

Districts partner with Georgia’s technical colleges to provide career-focused programs in key industries, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation.

Evans County Pathways

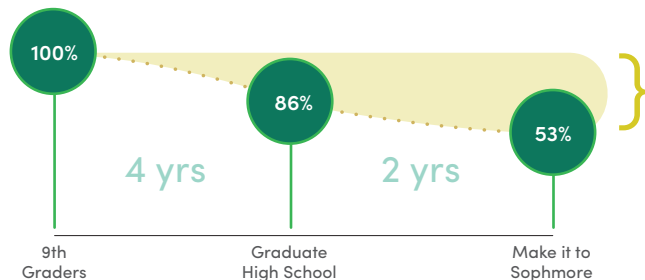


“When a student from a family with a history of generational poverty earns an Accelerated Career Diploma, starts a career earning \$40,000 to \$60,000 at 18, and does so without the burden of student debt, it creates a profound and lasting impact on the student, their family, and their community.”

MARTY WATERS

Superintendent, Evans County Schools, Claxton, Georgia

- ★ Evans County is a charter system operating with flexibility bases on broad waiver under Title 20.

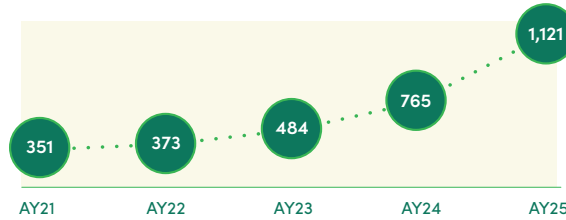


The Missing Half

Nearly half of ninth graders do not make it to second year of postsecondary, leaving them poorly prepared for the workplace.

Growth of Accelerated Career Diploma (ACD)

We want to thank the Governor's office, the general assembly, TCSG, and GSFC for supporting legislative changes in 2024 that streamlined the requirements for an Accelerated Career Diploma and created the ACE Grant which funds the cost of a technical college education through dual enrollment while students are in high school.



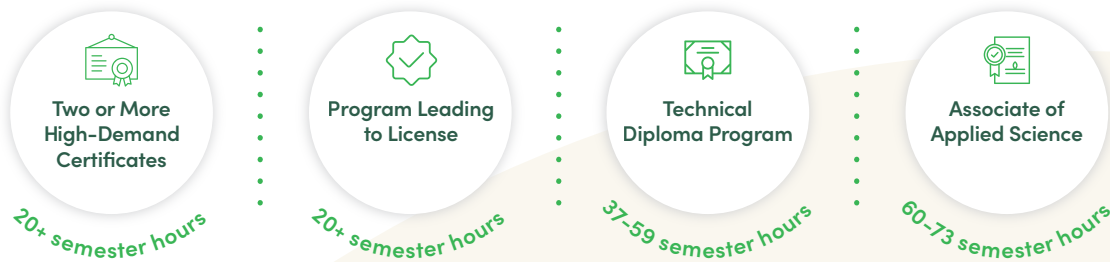
Requirements for an Accelerated Career Diploma

A student may earn an Accelerated Career Diploma by completing two years of high school coursework and completing a technical college program.

Two Years of High School Academic Courses



One of following Technical College credentials:



Accelerated Career Diploma has dramatically improved the immediate economic opportunities for our Accelerated Career Diploma grads with salaries averaging \$40-50K per year at age 18 upon graduation, across the 13 programs. We have seen some starting salaries as high as \$80K. This has helped our community grow investments in new jobs and helped attract new industry to Coweta County. Accelerated Career Diploma is helping Coweta County close the skills gap.

MARK WHITLOCK

CEO, Central Educational Center, Coweta County Schools

- ★ The CEC is a local charter school operating with flexibility based on broad waiver under Title 20.



The Promise Career Institute, Georgia’s first high school for accelerated career students

Our ambitious goal is to transform education by offering students an accelerated high school experience within a dynamic learning community. Through high demand career pathways, rigorous academics, real-world internships, and strategic partnerships, we bridge education and the workforce—proving success isn’t one-size-fits-all. By equipping students with the skills and confidence to thrive, we open doors to limitless futures.

YALANDA BELL

Principal - Fulton County’s Promise Career Institute

★ Fulton County is a charter system operating with flexibility bases on broad waiver under Title 20.

How Legislators Can Get Involved

Support Funding for New College and Career Academies

Georgia’s college and career academies provide the physical facilities and programs needed for Accelerated Career Education.

Protect District and CCA Flexibility

Districts and their College and Career Academies rely heavily on flexibility granted by the state under Title 20 in building career pathways for students.

Promote Awareness

Promote Accelerated Career Education to schools, students, and parents in your district as a viable and stable option for success.



In 24 years as an educator, the Accelerated Career Dipoma program has been the most rewarding initiative, I’ve experienced. It’s life-changing—offering students hands-on experience, industry certifications, and a direct path to success. Seeing them graduate with both a high school diploma and technical college credentials, ready for real-world opportunities, is truly inspiring.

DR. BETSY ALPERT

Counselor at Walton High School, Cobb County Schools

★ Walton High School is a conversion charter school that operates with flexibility based on waiver under Title 20.



BROOKE

Putnam County High School Graduate



SIGNAL MACHINE PATHWAY

Catoosa County CCA

Expanding Career Pathways Through Technical Education



MACHINE TOOL KIDS

Catoosa County Employer

Join Us in Building Georgia's Workforce

Now is the time to invest in Georgia's students and economy. By supporting career pathways through technical colleges, we can provide students with the tools to succeed while meeting the workforce needs of our state.

The Charter System Foundation: Shaping the Future of Georgia's Workforce.

To learn more about charter systems and the Charter System Foundation, please contact:
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Visit www.charter-system.org

