Technology Centers That Work

The nation's 1,000+ shared- and full-time technology centers serve a valuable purpose — to offer accelerated preparation leading to advanced credentials and degrees that are too expensive for most home high schools to offer.

The nation's technology centers also face unique challenges — to not only prepare students to meet labor market demand for individuals with advanced credentials and degrees, but also ensure those students can adapt and thrive in a workplace marked by rapid technological advances.

TCTW Helps Centers Meet Readiness Goals

SREB is committed to helping states, districts and center leaders meet these challenges by adopting HSTW's six Design Principles and the **new TCTW framework of Key Practices.** With TCTW, center students:

- Have equitable access to **structurally guided career pathways** that lead to advanced industry credentials and postsecondary certificates, credentials and degrees in high-demand career fields.

- Master a **broad mix of academic, technical and workplace skills and personal qualities** by completing project-based assignments that reflect the real problems faced by industry professionals. Unlike short-term assignments that focus on a single task or set of skills, challenging long-term projects foster academic, technical and workplace skills that transfer across work settings.

- Earn **an advanced credential or pursue postsecondary degrees and credentials.**

Meet Bold Goals for Student Achievement With TCTW	SREB encourages technology centers, high schools and districts to use the TCTW framework to set and meet bold goals like these: • Empowering 95 percent of center students to graduate on time • Empowering 80 percent of center students to graduate college ready, career ready or both • Empowering 60 percent of center students to earn a credential or degree of value by age 25

The *New* TCTW Framework of Key Practices

- Intellectually demanding **career pathways** align with great jobs in emerging fields and connect with a college-ready core.

- **Challenging instruction and assignments** strengthen students' literacy and math skills.

- **Literacy and math readiness courses** help struggling students get on track for postsecondary education and training.

- **Extended learning time** supports students in mastering foundational skills.

- **Project-based assignments** use real-world problems to deepen understanding.

- **Work-based learning** introduces students to careers under the guidance of adult mentors.

- **Career counseling** helps students and parents plan for the future.

- Eligible seniors can **earn up to 30 credits** toward an advanced industry credential or degree.

- Leaders and teachers commit to **continuous improvement.**

Supports for TCTW Leaders and Teachers

TCTW professional development and instructional coaching services strengthen the capacity of center leaders and teachers to design standards-driven, intellectually demanding instruction and assignments in partnership with home high schools, postsecondary faculty and employer partners. TCTW also works with state, district and center leaders to create the time needed for students to earn an advanced credential by:

- **Redesigning the senior year** to allow students to study full time at the center or at a community and technical college.

- **Extending the school year or the school day** at the center.

- Creating **13th-year advanced credential programs.**

- **Designing structured career pathway programs** that enable students to earn an advanced credential or degree at a partnering community and technical college.

Senior-year redesign

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TCTW's Proven Tools and Strategies

Technology Centers That Work's professional development and instructional coaching services help centers use proven tools and strategies to **align curriculum, instruction and assessments** with rising workplace requirements.

TCTW helps centers find the resources to support **full-time literacy and math teachers** who can:

- Advance struggling students' literacy and math skills by adopting **literacy and math readiness courses.** Entering 11th-graders who do not meet literacy and math benchmarks on 10th-grade assessments would take these courses in shortened class periods over a two-year span.

- Work with career pathway teachers to **embed literacy and math standards and strategies** in project-based assignments that challenge students to apply a mix of academic, technical, technological and cognitive skills to solve authentic workplace problems.

- Enable students to **earn English and math credits** that count toward graduation while remaining at the center longer each day.
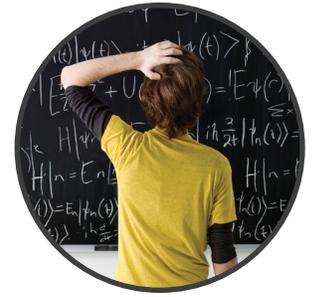
TCTW supports center leaders' capacity to recognize and support **effective teaching practices**, like how to conduct **classroom observations**, provide feedback, offer professional development and instructional coaching, and use data to assess whether students are prepared to secure high-skill, high-wage jobs or earn a credential or degree in a high-demand field.

Center leaders also learn how to support teachers in designing **challenging, project-based assignments** that align with grade-level academic and industry standards. Such assignments build the knowledge and skills that employers value — personal skills, people skills, workplace skills and applied academic knowledge.

TCTW works with center leaders, home high schools, postsecondary educators and employer partners to **design career pathways** leading to credentials and careers in high-demand fields.

Technical assistance services include curriculum and instruction and career pathway reviews, teacher and student surveys, and data-driven site development workshops that cultivate climates of continuous improvement.

TCTW-affiliated centers also participate in **special convenings** like the National TCTW Leaders' Forum, described below.

Literacy and math strategies

Project-based learning

Readiness courses

National TCTW Leaders' Forum

Each year, SREB convenes leaders from shared-time and full-time technology centers at the National TCTW Leaders' Forum, at which leaders advance their leadership skills, improve the quality of teaching and learning, and build strong pathways to credentials, degrees and careers.

Teachers who attend the Forum explore tools and strategies for aligning their assignments with rising workplace requirements.

Learn more.
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sreb.org/tctw