






# Career and Technical Education CTE Indicator Auto-Code Frequently Asked Questions

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 <p><b>Not CTE</b></p>	 <p><b>CTE Participants</b></p>	 <p><b>CTE Explorers</b></p>	 <p><b>CTE Concentrators</b></p>	 <p><b>CTE Completers</b></p>
<p><b>Code 4</b> A student who never enrolled or who did not complete any high-school CTE Course</p>	<p><b>Code 5</b> A student completing one or more courses for less than two credits*</p>	<p><b>Code E</b> A student completing two or more high school CTE courses for a total of two or more credits defined by 19 TAC Chapter 126 (C), 127(B) or 130 and not a participant, concentrator or completer (the student does not have to pass or receive credit).*</p>	<p><b>Code 6</b> A student completing and passing at least two or more 19 TAC Chapter 126 (C), 127 (B) or 130 CTE courses for a total of at least two credits within the same program of study and not a completer.</p>	<p><b>Code 7</b> A student completing and passing three or more 19 TAC Chapter 126 (C), 127 (B) or 130 CTE courses for a total of four or more credits within a program of study, including one level three or level four course from within the same program of study.</p>

## Auto-Code Background

### 1. Why was the self-reported CTE indicator changed to auto-coded by the TEA?

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) requires changes to how career and technical education (CTE) students are reported. At the time of Perkins reauthorization the Texas Education Agency (TEA) evaluated the method of reporting CTE students and determined there was an opportunity to improve data quality by calculating the indicators with existing data reported by districts. Auto-coded data also reduces the district reporting burden by removing the district self-reported CTE indicator data element in the 2020-2021 school year.

### 2. What does “Auto-Coding” mean?

The TEA uses existing Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data elements (e.g., course completion data, C022 table course credit information, etc.) along with business rules that count course attempts and completions, and compares them to the courses in the approved [CTE Programs of Study](#). Students completing and passing prescribed courses are assigned a CTE indicator code.

### 3. What are the benefits of Auto-Coding CTE indicators?

The TEA reduced the district reporting burden by removing the self-reported CTE indicators. Previously most districts had to use decision charts to manually evaluate student course completions and a student’s 4-year plan of study to determine a CTE indicator. The process was found to be inconsistently applied at the local level and some students were not being coded correctly. Auto-coding applies the business rules to all districts the same way each year, so there is less interpretation of how to code students.

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### 4. Which PEIMS data submission is used for auto-coding?

PEIMS Summer Submission (Submission 3). See the [data submission information](#) in the PEIMS online documentation.

### 5. When do the new CTE indicator codes take effect?

Starting with the 2020-2021 school year PEIMS summer data submission, the TEA will auto-code the first production CTE indicators in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year. Prior to that first production calculation, the TEA is producing three years of “retroactive” calculations to establish a baseline of CTE indicators, based on previous years of data reporting.

## CTE Indicators

### 1. Why do the new CTE indicators start with a code 4 (not CTE)?

To support longitudinal data analysis, the previous codes 0 through 3 were retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and new codes started with code 4 in the 2020-2021 school year. This allows researchers and the state CTE program to see long-term impacts of CTE and related programming on improving student outcomes.

### 2. Where can I find the CTE indicator definitions?

See the 2020-2021 PEIMS table [C142 \(CAREER-AND-TECHNICAL-ED-IND-CD\)](#) for current year definitions.

### 3. If a student never attempts a CTE course, what are they coded?

The student in this scenario is a code 4 (Not CTE).

### 4. Why does a student not have to pass a high-school CTE course to be a code 5 Participant or code E Explorer?

The TEA wanted to provide districts with credit for students attempting and completing a CTE course, even if they did not pass the course.

### 5. What is the purpose of the new code E Explorer CTE indicator?

When students complete CTE courses across multiple programs of study and do not concentrate their CTE courses in one area, they are “exploring” career and technical education. The TEA wanted to provide districts with a way to identify students who are taking a broader approach to CTE, in order to make local program improvements to concentrate or focus student CTE experiences in the future.

### 6. If a student completes the first half of a two-semester course, does the first half course completion record count toward auto-coding the CTE indicator?

No. Only when the student completes that last part of a multi-semester course is the course counted toward auto-coding. In addition to course completion codes, the TEA also evaluates PEIMS code C135 (COURSE-SEQUENCE-CODE) and looks for the last part of a multi-part course. In a two-semester course, the C135 code of 2 (Second Half Of A Two Semester Course) is used in the calculation only. In a three-semester course, the C135 code of 5 (Last Third Of A Three Semester Course) is used in the calculation only. See the 2020-2021 [C135 table](#) for more information.

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**7. How does the TEA know if a student passes a course?**

The auto-calculation system uses PEIMS code C136 (PASS/FAIL-CREDIT-INDICATOR-CODE) to identify if the student passed a course or not. See the 2020-2021 [C136 table](#) for more information.

**8. Where can I find the supporting documentation?**

The auto-calculation system supporting documents and links can be found on the [Career and Technical Education](#) page.

**9. Can a student be a code 4 (Not CTE) and a code 5, E, 6 or 7 within the same school year?**

No. Code 4 and all other codes (5, E, 6 and 7) are mutually exclusive within the same school year. Code 4 means the student never completed a CTE course, regardless of if they passed the course.

**10. Can a student be a code 5 (Participant) and a code 4, E, 6 or 7 within the same school year?**

No. Code 5 and all other codes (4, E, 6 and 7) are mutually exclusive within the same school year.

**11. Can a student be a code E (Explorer) and a code 4 or 5 within the same school year?**

No. Code E is mutually exclusive to codes 4 and 5 within the same school year.

**12. Can a student be a code 6 (Concentrator) and a code 7 (Completer) within the same program of study?**

No. The auto-coding only uses the highest of the two codes within the same program of study within a school year. A student may have been a program of study code 6 (Concentrator) at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade met all requirements for a code 7 (Completer) in the same program of study. At the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade the student would be a code 6, and at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade the student would be a code 7.

**13. Can a student be a concentrator or completer in more than one program of study?**

Yes. Students completing and passing CTE courses identified in multiple programs of study are assigned a CTE indicator for each program of study based on the business rules.

**14. Why are so many of my students assigned multiple CTE indicators of code 6 and code 7?**

At the time of the new system rollout several of the programs of study lacked approved CTE courses that make them unique and different from other program of study. This “overlapping” of courses across two or more programs of study is accurate and temporary, until more unique courses are added in specific programs of study. Each year during and after the rollout, TEA is working with the State Board of Education (SBOE) to add CTE courses in the programs of study.

**15. Our district has a lot of code 5s and not enough codes 6 or 7. What does that mean?**

A high frequency of code 5 (Participant) CTE indicators means students are not completing enough CTE courses in approved programs of study to earn a higher code (codes E, 6 or 7). Districts should evaluate course completion records and compare them to the approved CTE programs of study to determine if changes to local CTE course offerings can increase the number of code 6 (Concentrator) or code 7 (Completer) CTE indicators.

**16. Our district has a lot of code Es and not enough codes 6 or 7. What does that mean?**

A high frequency of code E (Explorer) CTE indicators means students are not completing enough CTE courses in approved programs of study to earn a higher code (codes 6 or 7). Districts should evaluate course completion records and compare them to the approved CTE programs of study to determine if changes to local CTE course offerings can increase the number of code 6 (Concentrator) or code 7 (Completer) CTE indicators.

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## General Questions

- 1. Why are only some of the CTE courses included in auto-calculation?**  
Only CTE courses that count for high school credit are used in auto-code calculations, regardless if they were earned in middle school (grades 6-8) or high school (grades 9-12).
- 2. If a student completes but does not pass a CTE course in a program of study, does the course count toward a code 6 or code 7?**  
No. All courses used in calculating codes 6 and 7 must be completed, passed and the student received credit.
- 3. If a student completes and did not pass a CTE course that counts for high school credit, and that course is not in a program of study, does the course count for codes 5 (participant) or code E (explorer)?**  
Yes. CTE courses that count for high school credit that are not included in any program of study are also included in code 5 (participant) and code E (Explorer) auto-code calculations regardless of whether a student receives credit for the course or not.
- 4. If a student moves to my region from across the state, does their auto-coding follow the student?**  
Yes. After the end of each year, summer submission course completion records are used to calculate CTE indicators. The system looks-back at all secondary CTE course completion records throughout the student's middle and high-school history. The "gaining" district will see the student's CTE indicator including the previous history of course completion.
- 5. How many years of CTE course completion data are used in the calculations?**  
Since students are allowed to attempt and complete in middle school grades any CTE course that counts for high school credit, course completion records starting with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade of student enrollment are included in the calculations.
- 6. What are regional programs of study?**  
Regional programs of study are specialized programs and occupations that are in demand only in select geographic regions of the state. Regional programs of study are approved for a four-year period in specific geographic regions. Districts can apply for a regional program of study through their geographic education service center. See the [Regional Programs of Study](#) page for more information.
- 7. Are regional programs of study included in CTE indicator auto-calculations?**  
Yes. The auto-coding system evaluates both statewide and regional programs of study for auto-coding.
- 8. Some program of study CTE courses are for dual credit. Do these count toward CTE indicators?**  
Yes. The auto-code system includes courses where dual credit codes are reported in PEIMS.

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**10. If a student repeats a course, are both courses used in the calculation?**

No. Only one instance of a course completion within a program of study is used in the calculation. If a student completes and passes a CTE course, they should be enrolled in a different course service ID for subsequent courses.

**11. If a student passes the first semester of a two semester course and receives credit (reported as C136 code 1 - Course Was Passed And Credit Was Received), fails the second semester of the two semester course, and passes and receives credit in the whole course due to averaging the two semester grades, what C136 PASS/FAIL-CREDIT-INDICATOR-CODE should we report in the summer submission 3 for this second semester?**

Use PEIMS C136 code 8 - Course Was Failed, But Credit Was Received (other parts of the course have been passed and credit was awarded based on the grades in those parts). Even though the student failed the last part of a multi-part course, due to all of their coursework they passed the entire course. Since the student received credit, they passed the overall course. Both C136 codes 1 and 8 will count in calculating CTE concentrators and completers.

### Student Mobility

**1. Does the TEA use ESC region of service or ESC geographic region to determine regional programs of study?**

ESC geographic region is used for regional programs of study and auto-coding. This is because the approved regions are based on the local labor market data for that geographic region. A district may receive services from a distant region that has a different labor market that does not support the program of study.

**2. Why was a student coded an Explorer if they completed a regional program of study?**

Students completing a regional program of study in unapproved regions will have their code 6 or code 7 converted to a code E when they complete a school year in an unapproved region. Districts can offer any of the programs of study, including regional programs of study that are not approved in the district's ESC geographical region. As students move from one ESC region to another, their course completion history follows them each year when the auto-code is calculated in the fall.

**3. A student moved to our ESC region within the same school year. They were taking CTE courses in a regional program of study that is not approved in our ESC geographical region. How does that impact auto-coding?**

A student's CTE indicator code is attributed to a district where the student last completes a CTE courses that counts for high school credit. If a student completes a CTE course in the fall within a regional program of study at district A in an approved region, and within the same school year moves and completes the year at district B in an unapproved region for the program of study, the auto-code CTE indicator will be attributed to district B, where the student completed the school year. The district A course will be applied to the auto-coding calculations in district B. Auto-coding follows students as they move from district to district.

**4. If a student transfers out of our district to another Texas district, and then returns before the school year ends, where is the student assigned their CTE Indicator?**

The district where a student last completes a CTE course within the school year is assigned the CTE indicator.

**5. I have a student that left the country before un-enrolling and never returned within the school year. Where is the student CTE Indicator assigned?**

For codes 5, E, 6 and 7, the district where a student last completes a CTE course within the school year is assigned the CTE indicator. If the student attempted a CTE course and did not pass the course, auto-coding uses a specific

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course completion code to reflect this instance. If a course completion record is not reported through PEIMS, the course will not be counted in auto-coding.

**6. I have a student who transferred from out of state as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader. Do her out of state CTE courses count toward auto-coded CTE indicators?**

No. The TEA auto-coding only uses courses completed in Texas public schools from grades 6 through 12 and reported through PEIMS in summer submission 3, if the service IDs are CTE courses that count for high school credit. This is separate from the local process of assigning course credit to meet graduation requirements.