



Career-Tech Center Students Survey Summary Report

May 2, 2019

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Introduction

The Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District conducted an online survey of its Career-Tech Center students to help guide its strategic planning. Other surveys are being conducted with Career Tech Center parents, Special Education students and parents, as well as with local district superintendents and principals, and TBAISD staff.

A total **106** responses were received April 12 – 27, 2019.

Students responding to this survey attend 18 of the 23 programs available at the Career-Tech Center, with the most attending the Information Technology (11%) and Allied Health (9%) programs.

Seventeen different local public school districts are represented in this sample, mostly from the Traverse City (51%) district.

Almost all of the students responding are 11th-graders (43%) or 12th-graders (56%), with one 10th-grader.

A slight majority of the students are female (53%).

Proud to say they’re a student at the Career-Tech Center

Many of the students (53%) responding to this survey **“agree” that they’re proud to be a student at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center.**

Very few, a scant 1%, “disagree,” while 13% reply “neutral.”

Agree	86%
Neutral	13%
Disagree	1%
(n)	(106)

Ease of transition from their home school to the Career-Tech Center

Almost 80% of the students (31%) responding to this survey **“agree” that the transition from their home school to the TBAISD Career-Tech Center was easy.**

Very few, just 2%, “disagree,” while 19% reply “neutral.”

Agree	79%
Neutral	19%
Disagree	2%
(n)	(105)

Satisfied with the communication from the Career-Tech Center

Two-thirds of the students (66%) responding to this survey **“agree” that they’re satisfied with the communication from the TBAISD Career-Tech Center.**

Few, just 5%, “disagree,” while 29% reply “neutral.”

Agree	66%
Neutral	29%
Disagree	5%
(n)	(106)

Expectations that education and experiences at Career-Tech Center are preparing them for what happens after they graduate

Most of the students (90%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing them for education after high school (such as college or technical school)**, including 64% who reply “definitely yes.”

Six percent reply “no,” while 4% are “not sure.”

Almost all of the students (96%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing them for work, employment and career**, including an impressive 73% who reply “definitely yes.”

Only 4% reply “no,” while 1% are “not sure.”

Six-sevenths of the students (86%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing them for everyday life**, including 49% who reply “definitely yes.”

Just 4% reply “no,” while 10% are “not sure.”

	Education after high school	Work, employment and career	Everyday life
Definitely yes	64%	73%	49%
Probably yes	26%	23%	37%
Not sure	4%	1%	10%
Probably no	3%	2%	1%
Definitely no	3%	2%	3%
(n)	(106)	(106)	(106)

Satisfaction with how technology is used at the Career-Tech Center

Approximately half of the students (51%) responding to this survey are **“very satisfied” with how technology is used in their program at the Career-Tech Center.**

Another 29% are “satisfied.”

Few, just 7% are dissatisfied, while 13% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	51%
Satisfied	29%
Neutral	13%
Dissatisfied	5%
Very dissatisfied	2%
(n)	(106)

What has been learned up to this point in their life

Twenty statements were evaluated by the Career-Tech Center students as to if they believe they have learned it at this point in their life.

The statements with the highest percentage of “strongly agree” responses are:

- ❖ “I interact comfortably with people of different cultural, racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds” (75%)
- ❖ “I am developing the skills to become a successful learner and citizen” (70%)

All 20 statements have “strongly agree” responses from at least 45% of these Career-Tech Center students responding.

Moreover, all 20 statements have combined “strongly agree/agree” responses from at least 79% of these Career-Tech Center students responding.

The statement with the least percentage of “strongly agree” responses is “I can write a quality essay or research paper” (45%).

There are very few “strongly disagree” replies, at most 6% for surprisingly “My life has a purpose.”

What has been learned up to this point in their life

Percent of 2019 Career-Tech Center students responding (n = 106)

<i>At this point in my life, I believe:</i>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I understand the meaning of most words used in my program	58%	38%	4%	0%	0%
I comprehend most everything I am expected to read in my program	59%	36%	4%	1%	0%
I can write effectively using proper grammar	50%	37%	11%	1%	0%
I can write a quality essay or research paper	45%	36%	13%	5%	2%
I can collect, analyze, and interpret information	53%	37%	9%	0%	1%
I can think about ideas and connect ideas in new ways	55%	33%	10%	1%	1%
I know how to go about solving real-world problems using what I have learned in my program	59%	28%	13%	1%	0%
I am developing the skills to become a successful learner and citizen	70%	21%	9%	0%	0%
I am capable of doing challenging academic work	59%	29%	12%	1%	0%
I can manage my time responsibly	58%	27%	13%	2%	0%
I am comfortable communicating with people for different reasons	49%	31%	15%	4%	1%

Percent of 2019 Career-Tech Center students responding (n = 106)

<i>At this point in my life, I believe:</i>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I interact comfortably with people of different cultural, racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds	75%	21%	4%	0%	0%
I successfully work with other people as part of a team	66%	27%	4%	3%	0%
I participate as a citizen in a democratic society	51%	28%	18%	2%	0%
I appreciate the value of community service and volunteering to help other people	65%	23%	11%	1%	0%
I can peacefully resolve conflicts	63%	27%	10%	0%	0%
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations	65%	26%	8%	1%	0%
I try to stop another student from being bullied or harassed	64%	28%	7%	0%	1%
My life has a purpose	61%	21%	7%	5%	6%
I am optimistic about my own future	60%	20%	13%	3%	4%

Frequency of experiences at Career-Tech Center

Twenty-seven statements were evaluated by the students for how much they experienced it in their time at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center.

The statements with the highest percentage of “always” responses are about strong teachers:

- ❖ “Teachers who are clear about how I am expected to behave” (76%)
- ❖ “Teachers who demand my best effort” (73%)
- ❖ “Respectful teachers who are positive role models” (70%)

Eight other statements received “always” responses from at least 60% of the Career-Tech Center students responding. Moreover, 23 of the 27 statements received “always” responses from at least half of the Career-Tech Center students responding.

Six of the 27 statements have “always or frequently” responses from at least 90% of the Career-Tech Center students responding. Moreover, 25 of the 27 statements have “always or frequently” responses from at least three-fourths of the Career-Tech Center students responding.

The three statements with the least percentages of “always” responses are:

- ❖ “Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my career plans” (39%)
- ❖ “Topics or subjects relevant to my life” (40%)
- ❖ “Opportunities to work with community members on community projects” (41%)

There are few combined “rarely/never” responses, at most 10% for both “Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my career plans” and “Opportunities to work with community members on community projects.”

Frequency of experiences at Career-Tech Center

Percent of 2019 Career-Tech Center students responding (n = 106)

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Topics or subjects relevant to my life	40%	48%	8%	4%	1%
Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-depth	51%	36%	9%	2%	3%
Opportunities to apply what I am learning to real-world issues or problems	54%	33%	9%	5%	0%
Classes teaching me to collect, analyze, and interpret information	62%	24%	11%	1%	3%
Classes that encourage me to think about ideas, and then put ideas together in new ways	60%	29%	7%	2%	3%
Opportunities to display what I am learning through projects, portfolios, or presentations	55%	33%	10%	2%	1%
Opportunities to work with other students on projects and develop teamwork skills	62%	30%	3%	3%	3%
Opportunities to talk with other students about important ideas	57%	29%	8%	3%	3%
Opportunities to understand my own learning style	55%	29%	10%	5%	2%
Assignments that require me to study more and work harder	56%	27%	13%	2%	2%
Teachers who demand my best effort	73%	19%	6%	1%	1%

Frequency of experiences at Career-Tech Center

Percent of 2019 Career-Tech Center students responding (n = 106)

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Teachers who are clear about how I am expected to behave	76%	18%	4%	1%	1%
Teachers who have high expectations for students	69%	23%	6%	1%	1%
Teachers who understand how I learn best	53%	25%	14%	4%	4%
Teachers who clearly explain their subject/required technique	54%	32%	10%	1%	4%
Teachers who give me clear feedback about how well I am doing and what I need to do to succeed	61%	29%	7%	1%	3%
Respectful teachers who are positive role models	70%	22%	5%	1%	2%
Teachers and other staff who know me well and care about me as a person	60%	29%	7%	2%	3%
Teachers and other staff who make me feel that I have an important contribution to make to my school	55%	27%	13%	1%	4%
Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my education	49%	28%	16%	7%	0%
Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my career plans	39%	35%	17%	5%	5%

Frequency of experiences at Career-Tech Center

Percent of 2019 Career-Tech Center students responding (n = 106)

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Classes and assignments with diverse and inclusive learning opportunities and experiences	50%	37%	7%	4%	2%
Opportunities to work with community members on community projects	41%	32%	17%	6%	4%
Opportunities to get to know people of different backgrounds	52%	29%	11%	4%	5%
A school environment safe from bullying	59%	29%	5%	3%	4%
A school environment that feels safe	65%	21%	10%	2%	2%
At least one adult at my school that I can count on to help and support me if I need assistance	64%	24%	7%	3%	2%

Guidance counselors at Career-Tech Center helpful

Almost one-third of the students (31%) responding to this survey **agree that their Career-Tech Center guidance counselors assist them in deciding which classes are best for them**, including 20% who “strongly agree.”

While only 9% disagree, 42% are neutral.

Forty-three percent of the students responding to this survey **agree that their Career-Tech Center guidance counselors assist them in dealing with personal issues**, including 19% who “strongly agree.”

While 11% disagree, 47% are neutral.

Forty-one percent of the students responding to this survey **agree their Career-Tech Center guidance counselors assist them with selecting and applying for education after high school**, including 17% who “strongly agree.”

While 13% disagree, 47% are neutral.

Almost half of the students (46%) responding to this survey **agree that their Career-Tech Center guidance counselors assist them with developing a career plan**, including 20% who “strongly agree.”

While 11% disagree, 43% are neutral.

Guidance counselors at Career-Tech Center helpful

Career-Tech Center Guidance Counselor assists me with:

	Deciding which classes are best for me	Dealing with personal issues
Strongly agree	20%	19%
Agree	29%	24%
Neutral	42%	47%
Somewhat disagree	7%	8%
Strongly disagree	2%	3%
(n)	(102)	(102)

Career-Tech Center Guidance Counselor assists me with:

	Selecting and applying for education after HS	Developing my career plans
Strongly agree	17%	20%
Agree	24%	26%
Neutral	47%	43%
Somewhat disagree	10%	8%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%
(n)	(102)	(102)

Rate education received from Career-Tech Center

Using a 1 = not good to 5 = excellent scale, more than half of the students (58%) responding to this survey **award the top rating of 5 to the education they have received from the TBAISD Career-Tech Center.**

Another 31% give a 4 rating, so that almost 90% assign a top-two rating of 4 or 5 (89%).

Only 2% give the lowest rating of 1, while another 2% assign a 2 rating.

5 excellent	58%
4	31%
3	7%
2	2%
1 not good	2%
(n)	(105)

Enjoy most about being a student at the Career-Tech Center

Here are the students unaided verbatim responses when asked what they enjoy most about being a student at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center:

Most frequently cited comments what they enjoy most:

- ❖ **The opportunity to take classes that are more interesting to them personally and more relevant to their careers**
- ❖ **Hands-on learning different from the usual school classrooms**
- ❖ **Developing friendships with people with similar interests**
- ❖ **Greater independence, treated as an adult**

(n = 86)

All of possibilities and chance to do want you want but still follow what you're told

Being able to be myself and excel with a great attitude and good learning experience

Being able to Co-OP and be out in the work field and experience the real world and what it has to offer.

Being able to help the kids in my classroom and help be the best they can be.

Being able to learn an in-depth topic that is not found in primary schooling.

Being able to learn things about the career path I want to take after high school

Being able to persue in what I want to do in the future

Being able to see new people and make new friends while also learning new things and having fun with my classes.

Being able to work with new people and making new friends and friendships.

Being around people who have the same interest as me and respect me.

Getting to learn about something that is interesting to me.

Hands on schooling

Hands on work

I am treated like a responsible adult, and I feel mutual respect with my instructors and administration.

I can use this experience on my resume and job applications.

I don't know

I enjoy all of the people at the Career-Tech Center, from the staff to my classmates everyone is dedicated to what they are doing and are lovely people to work with

I enjoy being able to learn about topics I am interested in.

I enjoy learning and coming in for development days for the Teacher Academy program to further learn about teaching and the aspects beyond it.

I enjoy raising rabbits in my ANR class

I enjoy the environment of the classroom, I know and am comfortable with all my classmates

I enjoy the many extracurricular opportunities my program provides.

I enjoy the many opportunities that are offered at the Career-Tech Center. These include different school events, community client projects, quality instruction, and clubs/honor societies. My future is very positively impacted by my experiences at the Tech Center.

I enjoy the opportunities I have been given to interact with people in the community and work with new pieces of technology and advance my own skills, as well as deepen my knowledge of the trade.

I enjoy the people that I am put with in my class, it makes it easier to make more friends and learn how to work with other people. You can really adapt to how others teach or learn. Learning to do things that I have wanted to learn my whole life is basically a dream come true and I am super glad I chose to attend the Career-Tech Center.

I enjoy then hands on learning because it makes me feel as though I am accomplishing something.

I enjoyed being in the MTA building and working there.

I enjoyed the fact each student was treated as a worker and adult, not a kid or student. They expected more from us and in return treated us better. They gave it to us straight and told us life isn't always going to go like how out text book says. Things will change on the spot and your gonna have to figure out what to do next. I love how positive the setting is. My teacher is the best teacher I've ever had due to the fact he believed in me and told me he saw potential. My class mates turned into a family where we all text one another and check up on each other because we feel like that's what we need to do. I feel way safer there than at my home school. I feel accepted.

I enjoyed to have the opportunity to meet new people and to explore a different class that my school doesn't offer.

I learned programs I would probably need to learn at some point in my future career

I like how it's a different environment. We are treated like adults.

I like the work just as well as I enjoy the learning. I came here knowing basically nothing about performing legitimate repairs on vehicles and currently, I know almost all that needs to be done with basic repairs and some information on how to perform advanced repairs. Although, through my second year, I haven't been getting a lot of practice done due to either lack of projects, getting caught up with school work, or due to my falling asleep in class, which I have been attempting to improve on more. I also enjoy how respectful some of the teachers are towards their students, like my Para Pro, Instructor, and my English teacher. They help their students with their tasks and assignments when they're not busy, if they can.

I love all the different projects we do in the classroom and all of the team work and soloist activities inside and outside the classroom my classmates and I participate in.

I love all the friendships I have made and love having absolutely amazing teachers who care about each and every one of their students and would go above and beyond to make sure not only are we doing well in school but out of school as well.

I love how I am able to experience real world situations for my career and I love how my teacher has experience in the career field I am going into.

I love how the both the students and the faculty come here because they are serious about delivering/receiving a quality education.

I'm learning a new skill.

I dk

I dk

If you have questions that need answers you can ask and find an answer most the time, but some times it's better to be found on your own. Also the school has a pretty good atmosphere.

It actually prepares you for the real world, unlike other high school curriculums.

It was a very enjoyable year and I cannot wait to go back a second year. Thank You in special regards- Jake Vanderburg

Just Being able to learn in more than just a classroom.

Learning things that pertain to my future career and things I'm interested in

Leaving

Meeting and working with new people in a fun learning environment.

Meeting new friends and people that I have never met before or seen before, learning topics where I know that I will enjoy them in the future. Also doing some fun activities to better understand a topic some may be struggling on.

Meeting new people

Meeting new people and preparing for the future

MTA had amazing people.

New people from different schools

Not having to put up with boring electives at my home high school.

OK

Teachers get to know you better and they offer opportunities to grow inside and outside of class.

The ability to learn something that we want to learn. We chose that class because we were interested in that subject. I love my class.

The chance to make people happy with the food I make.

The class is interesting and is something I will actually use compared to some of the useless classes I've been forced to take even though I'll never use them in my desired career.

The classes targeted specifically for the field I am interested in with real skills needed.

The classmates and the teachers treating students more like adults.

The education at CTC is similar to how I expect college as it is more focused around a particular field of interest that you enjoy. I also enjoy the freedom teachers give me to work independently while they still manage to provide support and answer my questions thoroughly.

The environment

The environment and going there is just really amazing

The experience!

The experiences and the people.

The fact that I get to learn stuff that will help me in the future and the fact that I get to experience how my future job might be like and helps me decide if this is what I want to do.

The flexibility and ability to enhance my education

The friends I have met and the opportunity to get out of my homeschool

The hands on learning experience's.

The hands-on learning I get to do.

The hands-on learning opportunities.

The job experience you receive from working in the shop

The opportunities

The other students attending my class, and the teacher of my class.

The people I get to interact with everyday makes me want to come to CTC everyday.

The people I have got to meet and the friends I've made.

The program I am in and the hands-on learning

The project based learning!

The teachers at the MTA program are amazing and like no other.

The teachers go out of their way to make sure you're understanding the class.

The thing I enjoy most about CTC is the way the teachers prepare me for after-school education, the way they provide me with information about after-school opportunities, and the way they and the other students create a comfortable space that we can all learn in.

The time given to me to let me work on my teams robot and other interesting technical fields

The work that I do I find pretty enjoyable in general. And I genuinely appreciate the opportunities the tech center has offered me. But as a second year student who doesn't require a math credit because I am taking one at my home school (trigonometry) I find it rather frustrating being forced to sit through a math class I have already took, and to be taught material I already known 90% of ,when I could be using that time to progress further in the actual class I am signed up for. Particularly because I am on co-op and only get two days at TBA (not to diminish the great value I receive from my co-op experience) this makes half of my time at TBA taking a class that is doing almost nothing for me educationally. Furthermore splitting the class in half rather than having a full day dedicated to math further deteriorates the time I have, because setup times in my program can be lengthy having to do two of them cuts down on the time I have even more. Again the education I have received at the tech center as a whole has been fantastic, but leaving on the note that half my time at the tech center was wasted for my last year leaves a sour taste in my mouth.

Treated like an adult with mostly all independent work

What I enjoy most about being a student at Career-Tech Center is, that it makes me feel like a real employee and how I am supposed to be prepared for my future career as an Automotive Detailer.

Working with people from other schools

You get to meet different people