CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Best of Both Worlds: How Massachusetts Vocational Schools are Preparing Students for College and Careers (2015)
This Achieve brief highlights the state's policies that promote strong programming. Massachusetts encourages the completion of MassCore, the state's college- and career-ready course of study, incentivizes rigorous academic standards through school accountability measures, offers capacity-building support, and has fostered multiple workforce partnerships. The brief also showcases how several programs within the state are integrating real-world learning, foster caring relationships, and focus on continuous improvement in service of strong student outcomes.
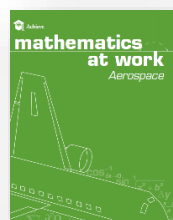

Seizing the Future: How Ohio's Career-Technical Education Programs Fuse Academic Rigor and Real-World Experiences to Prepare Students for College and Work (2015)
This Achieve brief demonstrates Ohio's progress in developing strong policies for CTE programs to promote rigor, including college- and career-ready graduation requirements for all students, integrated college and career pathways, partnerships with workforce partners, and clear public-reporting systems. It describes those state-level efforts and highlights individual CTE programs that are thriving across the state.

Making Career Readiness Count (2014)
Achieve and NASDCTEc developed this brief to increase knowledge and understanding of career readiness by proposing an expanded framework for college- and career-ready indicators that better incorporates indicators focused on career preparation. The policy brief examines how states are currently using career-focused indicators in accountability systems (e.g., weighted in accountability formulas and/or awarding bonus points) and in public reporting systems such as school report cards.
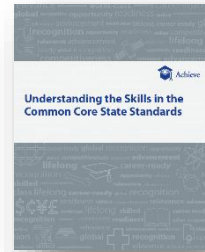

MathWorks (2013)
Achieve developed an advocacy kit that provides resources that make the case for why all students should engage in rigorous math course-taking throughout their high school experiences. This resource includes connections to CTE pathways and features middle skills jobs.

Understanding the Skills in the Common Core State Standards (2012)
This report identifies the types and ranges of college- and career-ready skills reflected in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), using two sets of skills statements – the Deeper Learning Standards and the Career Cluster Essential Knowledge and Skills Statements – as benchmarks. Achieve found that there are many critical skills that are reflected throughout the CCSS in either or both subjects – such as communications, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, and research skills.

A Survey by Achieve/SHRM of Hiring Practices across Nine Industries (2012)
Achieve, in partnership with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), conducted a national survey of almost 4,700 human resource (HR) professionals from across nine industries to better understand how the skills mismatch affects companies' hiring practices — and how companies' hiring practices affect the skills mismatch. The report shows that organizations are demanding more education and technical training than before, a trend expected to continue in the future.

Common Core State Standards & Career and Technical Education: Bridging the Divide between College and Career Readiness (2012)

Achieve developed this brief to outline a set of strategies state and district leaders can leverage to ensure the implementation of Common Core State Standards engages, informs, and benefits from the career and technical education community, a critical partner in the broader college- and career-ready agenda.

Career Technical Education & the Common Core State Standards Resources (2012)
Achieve and NASDCTEc jointly developed this compilation of resources to assist states, districts, and schools with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The document identifies general resources, state examples, curricular resources, and planning tools.

CCSS-CTE Classroom Tasks (2011)
Achieve and NASDCTEc jointly piloted a process where educators evaluated, modified, and/or developed instructional tasks that demonstrate how Career Technical Education content can be leveraged throughout high school mathematics. The tasks were developed with the purpose of demonstrating how the Common Core and CTE Knowledge & Skills Statements can be integrated into classroom learning – and to provide classroom teachers with a truly authentic task for either mathematics or CTE courses. Achieve has also developed complementary task alignment workshop planning tools to help state, district, and school leaders leverage the tools, processes, and lessons learned from three pilot CCSS-CTE Task Alignment Workshops.