



Career-Tech Center Parents Survey Summary Report

May 3, 2019

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Introduction

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

A total **125** responses were received April 12 – 29, 2019.

Parents responding to this survey have children who attend all 23 programs available at the Career-Tech Center, with the most attending the Allied Health (17%), Information Technology (13%), and Public Safety/Protective Services (10%) programs. Several parents cited more than one program at the Career-Tech Center.

Eighteen different local public school districts are represented in this sample, with the most from the Traverse City (35%) district.

Almost all of the parents responding have CTC students who are 11th-graders (56%) or 12th-graders (49%), with two 10th-graders. Several parents have children in both 11th- and 12th-grade, explaining why these total more than 100%.

One-fourth of the parents have older children who also previously attended the Career-Tech Center (26%).

How the decision was made for their child to attend the Career-Tech Center

Here are the parents unaided verbatim responses when asked how the decision was made for their child to attend the TBAISD Career-Tech Center:

Most frequently cited comments about their decision:

❖ **Driven by their daughters or sons themselves**

❖ **Interested in a certain career**

❖ **Encouraged by guidance counselor or teacher**

(n = 116)

A friend and meeting teachers one on one

Advice from school counselor

Alternative way of learning, love the hands on experience.

Always wanted to work with vehicles

At the time, student wanted to pursue engineering.

Begin early college and complete STEM programs in advance fields.

Better fit for his learning style

Both children attended the summer camp opportunity and were really excited to go to CTC

By the student

Career based

Child was interested

Child's interest

Course offering

Daughter heard about program at school. Interested in the arts.

Daughters interest

Discussion with child about his future

Early College program was attractive

Encouraged by high school personnel

Focus on his field of interest

Guidance counselor at school told us that it would be the best program to prepare him for the career he wants.

He chose

He decided

He decided to attend

He doesn't want to go to college so I required he learn a trade

He wanted to be a writer. What better way to find out about writing

He wanted to be involved in the trades

He wanted to do it, and I thought it was a good idea

He wanted to focus more on his art.

He wanted to.

He was interested in computers, and as well he had completed most of his necessary electives for graduation. It made sense for him to spend the last two years at CTC.

He was interested in joining the military (has since enlisted and will go to boot camp after graduation) and then thinking about law enforcement.

He was very interested in learning to cook. It sparked his interest.

He was very interested in the IT program and I wished that I would have when I was in school.

He was very interested in the program.

Her choice

Her choice

Her choice

Her goal is to become a teacher. She will be attending college and studying elementary Ed. It was her decision to do Career Tech's Teacher Academy and she is so happy that she did. It confirmed her decision to go into teaching.

High recommendation

His choice

His decision

His decision

His interests

His love for writing and interest in pursuing it as a possible future career.

I think the CTC focuses more on job prep and skills needed to get a job then regular schools do -
I think no matter what she decides to do after high school she can take things that she learns at
CTC and apply them

Interest based

Interest in becoming Michigan State Police

Interest in Engineering

Interest in health career

Interest in trades and unsure whether college was of any interest post high school

It was a given. So many benefits.

It was a joint decision between parents and student.

It was a more challenging curriculum for her and when we came to the parent night she really
started realizing what the program was all about. That night got her attention and she started to
realize just how she could apply her strengths to a career.

It was an opportunity for my daughter to explore different career options with hands on
experience. Areas of interest actually changed from nursing to a different area of the medical
field. TBA has been a wonderful career tool for my daughter!

It was her decision.

It was recommended by a friend.

It was what interested both of my boys

It was what the student wanted to do

Lot of programs to offer and hands-on experience

My child chose to go

My child saw this program as a way to further develop her skills. I agreed. The rest is history.

My child wanted to broaden her horizons, explore alternative educational techniques, and didn't
want to take other college courses or honors classes. So assisting teachers in helping others to
learn seemed a good fit.

My daughter decided

My daughter wanted to attend due to her strong interest in writing.

My daughter wanted to get familiar with what a career in nursing or Health care would be like. Heard lots of good things about the program

My daughter was interested in being a police officer.

My daughter, Kristen, made the decision because she is interested in a health career and thought she would get hands-on experience and gain important knowledge about the health field in order to be a step ahead after she graduates.

My daughters career choice - nursing. And researching TBAISD. Heard lots of good things about program

My homeschooled daughter chose the subject after we took a tour of the facility and learned more about the classes.

My son decided from info at school

My son drove the process. It was information and visits that caught his attention.

My son loves cars. It seemed like the best option for him.

My student wanted to go

My suggestion

Options of pursuing special interests of the student

Our son

Prior interest in Electrical & 10th grade school visit to look at program

Programs offered

Quality of the curriculum, small class size and student interest in Engineering

Sam works with us in our small business a lot and he is interested in learning all the administrative parts of it as well. He is a hands-on learner so CTC is a great fit for him.

Self

She always knew she wanted to do something in agriculture

She attended a field trip and was interested in the health field so we gave it a try!

She decided she wanted a trade. this was a FANTASTIC option for her.

She decided she wanted to go and we let her.

She had a strong interest in design and we knew this would be a great avenue for her to experiment with the potential career interest.

She heard it about it at her school, took the tour and decided it was for her. Also I knew the instructor quite well.

She informed us.

She is interested in law enforcement

She is very interested in the healthcare field, which we both believe is a great career route.

She really wanted to and it was the **BEST** choice she has ever made!!!

She wanted to attend and we thought it would be good for her

She wanted to go.

She went on a CTC visitation and loved the Allied health program. So we signed her up.

St. Mary's is limited in what they can offer both academically, creatively and socially. My student has many different strengths but few of them could be cultivated by attending St. Mary's exclusively.

Student decided

student decided

Student desire and family discussions

Student driven

Student interest

Student interested in gaining knowledge of the health care field

Student was impressed with program

Student was interested from what he heard. Parents were supportive

Students choice

Students decision

Suggested by counselor

Through information given at 9th grade IEP

To further my son's future career in service to his community & country after he graduates this year

To get away from home school for 1/2 day

Tour of the classes and talking as a family

Try working with kids

Was thinking about going into education

We learned of MTA and its reputation as a strong program through its newsletter, and we mentioned it as a possibility to our daughters. I'm not sure how we heard of CTC's Front Street Writer's program, but we had heard of the CTC organization. We thought this might be a good fit for our other daughter and told her about it. Our daughters visited CTC with Bellaire twice. They choose to apply to MTA and FSW, and we were very pleased with their decisions as everything we had found out about them led us to believe they would be high-quality and challenging programs that would give our daughters a good education.

We made the decision together based on input from counselor at school.

We visited the program, went to an open house, talked to others

We went on a tour in grade nine, and Nicholas was interested so it was a go.

We were aware and talked to children about options. They were not told much at home school

Like best about the Career-Tech Center

Here are the parents unaided verbatim responses when asked what they like best about the TBAISD Career-Tech Center:

Most frequently cited comments what they like best:

- ❖ Hands-on learning different from the usual school classrooms
- ❖ The opportunity to learn skills relevant to their intended career
- ❖ An opportunity to test out interest in possible career
- ❖ Teachers with real-world experience
- ❖ Teachers care and are positive

(n = 113)

Ability to offer trade educations, and other educational opportunities vs book/online learning.

Active meaningful work in the green house, speakers tours and competitions

Administration

Allied Heath teachers are amazing

Allowing students to try out interest areas before heading off to college.

Allows for practical, hands on experience that has a useful purpose

Alternative way of learning, love the hands on experience. We also love the "real life" exposure of careers. The program holds the interest extremely well unlike traditional classroom.

As a parent, I love the enormous amount of diverse choices for students to delve into. I am extremely impressed with the teachers! I appreciate the fact that you seem very organized and that everything seems geared toward a students success.

Awesome head start in a lot of job fields and the teachers are fantastic

Awesome programs

Career

Career related experience...hands on learning

Clear communication and support for students from staff

Close to home, advanced experience in real world career

Concern not only in academics but in the safety of our children, which has been proven a couple of times.

CTC is good educational choice for students who learn by being 'hands on'.

Dedicated teachers that think outside of the box

Direct exposure to trades

Direct prep for his career choice

Exceptional opportunity to learn skills outside the 'normal' high school classes that help with future employment.

Experience in the field my child has interest in.

Gave her the opportunity to explore this career field

Hands on

Hands on experience. Interact with other schools students. Students there seem to be of higher caliber. Less of a drug/smoking environment.

Hands on learning

Hands on learning

Hands on learning and professional mindset

Hands on learning and teaching skills that help support them in life

Hands on learning in the field of choice

Hands on training , knowledge that my son has gained & confidence within himself being in your 2 year program

Hands on, excellent resources

Hands on, experience

Hands on, real life experience

He likes going there, helped choose a career path

Helps student try different career opportunity to see if that is something they would like to do after high school.

I like that it gives students hands on experience into careers

I like that MTA resembles real life, the small classroom sizes, the integration of topics across disciplines, the level of professionalism expected

I truly love the on-hands experience and that the teachers do or did work in the field.

Instructor

Instructors

Instructors have a true interest in the kids success

It gave my son skills and provided him with an idea of what he wanted to do with his future life.

It gets the kids ready for working right away out of high school.

It gives my son the opportunity to learn about his chosen field.

It helped get my son more engaged in school again because he really enjoys his graphic art class.

It helps that it also covers some regular classes

It meets his learning style and is teaching him real skills

It teaches students that it's ok to have a trade. Its been all about computers, and online things.
We're losing our basics.

It's good for our son, feels he's treated more like an adult.

Location and there is transportation.

More of a real world experience

My child enjoys attending and likes his teachers.

My child enjoys the program

My daughter is learning job skills.

My daughter really enjoys her class. I am glad that you will accept homeschoolers without the burden of working with the local school district who are not very willing to work with us.

My daughter really enjoys the class, is much more sore than her high school classes

My kids love their programs. Mr. Preventure has done an awesome job building a relationship with James and encouraging him.

My office is at CTC (Infant-Toddler), I love walking past PS/PS and seeing my kid smiling in there. Every time, he's always smiling. It's more like a college campus than a high school. We've been so happy with his experience and hope his siblings consider a CTC program.

My son enjoys it.

My student had an almost immediate improvement on her writing skills as well as a higher desire and drive to succeed in school.

My student is learning a trade they can use forever.

Nothing

Opportunities in the community they are given

Opportunity for hands-on learning experiences and for our child to learn a skilled trade.

Opportunity to learn more hands on

Options for learning styles

Our son was able to complete his associates degree prior to completing his high school degree.

Quality of the education

Relavant information, good discipline!

Sam is allowed to use his problem-solving skills hands on. He's doing great!

She loves helping the kids.

Small class size, challenging subject matter, quality teachers, high expectations of students, opportunities (robotics, internships), working well with sending school

Small classes and challenging work

Students are treated like adults and are able to specialize in a subject to guide them in a career choice.

TBA gives our children the opportunity to learn more about a field before they spend thousands of dollars entering into college.

Teacher

Teacher & para really care about the students. Teacher has real world experience in EO and the classroom & shop are excellent for learning. Also nice to get out of home school & meet other area kids.

Teachers. Challenging curriculum

That my child is learning an actual skill and trade

The ability to explore different career options in the classroom, hands on experience, and the chance to explore before making a decision for college.

The career based instruction.

The certifications, collage credits and high school credits and job experience.

The different opportunities available outside of traditional classes for my children to learn. The teachers are excellent!. The facility is nice.

The experiance he has gained

The hands on teaching/learning

The hands on training

The instructors. They genuinely are invested in the learning and development of their students. They are dedicated, have high expectations, and hold kids accountable. The equipment available. It is very impressive to see what the kids can do.

The nurturing attitude of the instructors.

The opportunities to explore different aspects of a job and the chance to excel in something that is more than book work learning.

the opportunity for a real world look at a given profession

The opportunity for my student

The opportunity to experience hands on learn

The preparation for college and a career.

The quality of the teaching and the students. We feel our daughters are both being pushed in a very good way and learning a lot. Their teachers are knowledgeable and have high expectations. We are so glad, and so are our daughters that the students want to work hard, be at school, and learn and that the teachers are excellent. Although our daughters haven't yet had an internship, we are excited about that possibility as an excellent learning opportunity as well.

The real life application and excellent instruction

The staff and all the positive mentors my kids have to guide them

The staff and program have given our student many opportunities to investigate her interests.

The staff truly cares about the students. As I hear my child discuss her interactions with staff, I hear utmost respect, but also an element of friendship and camaraderie.

The subjects taught that are not available in regular school.

The teachers treat my children with respect and genuinely care

The teachers/mentors are so positive. We also love the real life experience she has been given.

They can be employed when graduating.

They teach real-world skills

This curriculum is not something she could have gotten at her home school and it is exactly what she needed. The staff at MTA are great, enthused, and will go out of their way to help the kids.

Treated like adults, co-op options

Variety of opportunities for these students.

Very unique experience. Kids coming together from all walks of life and different geographical areas. The curriculum is challenging yet rewarding for my daughter.

We love the hands-on approach and the alternative to "traditional" learning

What I like is the instructors for the class. It is obvious that they care for the students and want them to excel.

What I liked best was the hands on experience and also the exposure to many health related fields. The equipment that the Allied Health program had in the classroom was of high quality and up to date technology.

What we like best about career tech is that they take the kids seriously and empower them with skills that are directly applicable to adult life.

Wonderful facility and programs

You really made her feel comfortable. With some one that has Asperger's syndrome its very comforting to know that she loves it there because of the way she is treated. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

Informed about opportunities and programs available at the Career-Tech Center

Almost three-fourths of the parents (72%) responding to this survey believe they are **informed about the opportunities and programs available at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center**, including 24% who feel “very informed.”

Few do not feel they are not informed (6%), while 22% reply “neutral.”

Very informed	24%
Informed	48%
Neutral	22%
Uninformed	6%
Very uninformed	0%
(n)	(125)

Communicates with me about opportunities and programs at the Career-Tech Center

Career-Tech Center communicates with me

Almost two-thirds of the parents (64%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with how the Career-Tech Center communicates with them about the opportunities and programs available at the Career Tech Center**, including 26% who reply “very satisfied.”

Few are dissatisfied (7%), while 26% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	26%
Satisfied	38%
Neutral	26%
Dissatisfied	10%
Very dissatisfied	0%
(n)	(125)

My local district communicates with me

One-half of the parents (50%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with how their local district communicates with them about the opportunities and programs available at the Career Tech Center**, including 15% who reply “very satisfied.”

Twenty percent are dissatisfied, while 31% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	15%
Satisfied	35%
Neutral	31%
Dissatisfied	18%
Very dissatisfied	2%
(n)	(123)

Career-Tech Center responsive to parents questions and messages

Three-fourths of the parents (75%) responding to this survey feel their children’s **Career-Tech Center teachers are responsive to their questions and messages**, including 50% who reply “very responsive.”

Very few (just 3%) say the teachers are unresponsive, while 22% reply “neutral.”

Forty percent of the parents responding to this survey feel the **Career-Tech Center guidance counselors are responsive to their questions and messages**, including 23% who reply “very responsive.”

A scant 1% say the guidance counselors are unresponsive, while 59% reply “neutral.”

More than half of the parents (53%) responding to this survey feel the **Career-Tech Center administrators are responsive to their questions and messages**, including 28% who reply “very responsive.”

Very few (just 2%) say the administrators are unresponsive, while 46% reply “neutral.”

	Teachers responsive	Guidance counselors responsive	Administrators responsive
Very responsive	50%	23%	28%
Responsive	25%	17%	25%
Neutral	22%	59%	46%
Unresponsive	2%	1%	2%
Very unresponsive	1%	0%	0%
(n)	(121)	(113)	(116)

Career-Tech Center helps its students

Career-Tech Center helps its students develop good study and homework skills

Three-fourths of the parents (74%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with how the Career-Tech Center helps its students develop good study and homework skills**, including 39% who reply “very satisfied.”

Very few are dissatisfied (only 3%), while 23% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	39%
Satisfied	35%
Neutral	23%
Dissatisfied	2%
Very dissatisfied	1%
(n)	(123)

Career-Tech Center helps its students who are struggling academically

Almost two-thirds of the parents (65%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with how the Career-Tech Center helps its students who are struggling academically**, including 36% who reply “very satisfied.”

Very few are dissatisfied (just 3%), while 33% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	36%
Satisfied	29%
Neutral	33%
Dissatisfied	3%
Very dissatisfied	0%
(n)	(112)

Satisfaction with technology at the Career-Tech Center

Six-sevenths of the parents (86%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with the availability of technology in their child’s program at the Career-Tech Center**, including 46% who are “very satisfied.”

Zero percent are dissatisfied, while 14% are “neutral.”

Five-sixths of the parents (83%) responding to this survey are **satisfied” with how technology is used in their child’s classrooms at the Career-Tech Center**, including 40% who are “very satisfied.”

Zero percent are dissatisfied, while 17% are “neutral.”

	Availability of technology	How technology is used in classrooms
Very satisfied	46%	40%
Satisfied	40%	43%
Neutral	14%	17%
Dissatisfied	0%	0%
Very dissatisfied	0%	0%
(n)	(122)	(119)

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

Most of the parents (94%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing their children for education after high school (such as college or technical school)**, including 64% who reply “definitely yes.”

Just 2% reply “no,” while 5% are “not sure.”

Most of the parents (93%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing their children for work, employment and career**, including 57% who reply “definitely yes.”

Only 2% reply “no,” while 6% are “not sure.”

Many of the parents (88%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at the Career-Tech Center are preparing their children for everyday life**, including 50% who reply “definitely yes.”

A scant 1% reply “no,” while 11% are “not sure.”

	College or technical education after high school	Work, employment and career	Everyday life
Definitely yes	64%	57%	50%
Probably yes	30%	36%	38%
Not sure	5%	6%	11%
Probably no	1%	2%	0%
Definitely no	1%	0%	1%
(n)	(124)	(125)	(125)

Career-Tech Center students are still able to participate in extra-curricular activities at their local high school

Most of the parents (91%) responding to this survey believe that **their Career-Tech Center student is still able to participate in extra-curricular activities at their local high school**. This includes a noteworthy 72% who reply “definitely yes.”

Very few (just 2%) do not feel their child at the Career-Tech Center can participate in extra-curriculars, while 8% are “neutral.”

Definitely yes	72%
Probably yes	19%
Not sure	8%
Probably no	1%
Definitely no	1%
(n)	(123)

Building entrances secure at Career-Tech Center

Slightly more than three-fourths of the parents (77%) responding to this survey believe the **entrances to the Career-Tech Center building are secure**. This includes 41% who reply “very secure.”

Very few (just 2%) feel the Career-Tech Center’s entrances are not secure, while 21% are “neutral.”

Very secure	41%
Secure	36%
Neutral	21%
Unsecure	2%
Very unsecure	0%
(n)	(118)

Student discipline consistently enforced at Career-Tech Center

Fifty-nine percent of the parents responding to this survey are **satisfied with how student discipline is consistently enforced at the Career-Tech Center**. This includes 28% who are “very satisfied.”

Very few (just 2%) are dissatisfied with how student discipline is consistently enforced, while 39% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	28%
Satisfied	31%
Neutral	39%
Dissatisfied	1%
Very dissatisfied	1%
(n)	(110)

At least one staff member at the Career-Tech Center knows their child well enough to recognize if something was different or troubling them

Eighty percent of the parents responding to this survey believe that **at least one teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, or other staff member at the Career-Tech Center knows their child well enough to recognize if something was different or troubling with their child.** This includes 51% who reply “definitely yes.”

Very few (only 4%) do not feel that a Career-Tech Center staff member knows their child to that degree, while 16% are “neutral.”

Definitely yes	51%
Probably yes	29%
Not sure	16%
Probably no	3%
Definitely no	1%
(n)	(121)

Satisfied with Career-Tech Center

Most of the parents (93%) responding to this survey are **satisfied with the Career-Tech Center**. This includes a noteworthy 63% who are “very satisfied.”

Very few (just 2%) are dissatisfied, while 6% are “neutral.”

Very satisfied	63%
Satisfied	30%
Neutral	6%
Dissatisfied	1%
Very dissatisfied	1%
(n)	(125)

Suggestions to improve the Career-Tech Center

Here are the parents unaided verbatim responses when asked for their suggestions or recommendations to improve the TBAISD Career-Tech Center:

Most frequently cited suggested improvements:

- ❖ **Communications and information about the CTC programs, especially at the local district**
- ❖ **Improve second year curriculum**
- ❖ **Four of the 10 comments actually praise the CTC, including two who praise specific teachers**

(n = 10)

At times X in the Y program has seemed difficult when relating to students and responding to their concerns. There have been discussions at home about her attitude towards her students. This concerns me as building relationships with students is key to student success. She is also frequently gone from the classroom.

Communication between CTC and home school seems to lack

Communications can never be overdone. I enjoy the newsletters showcasing what is happening in the school and appreciate updates as to events taking place and opportunities available to the students. Keep up the good work. You are a blessing to our community and these students.

I did not mark dissatisfied to anything. However transportation is an issue when students are expected to attend CTC. It should not be counted against them.

Local school districts are not very informative of CTC's great options.

More time in the greenhouse, opportunities to hear students concerns.

Mr. Preventure came to the NTHS induction even though James was the only student of his program being inducted. Mr. Preventure has been so supportive of James and has really been instrumental in building James confidence.

Same problem as when I attended CTC when I was in high school. There is NO difference in the class curriculum between first year and second year. Granted, her first year was awesome. However, second year students become very bored. Also, my daughters class was full of students that did not want to be there. They were seeking an easy "A" and an escape from their home school. This brought the whole class down and may have affected my daughters career path. My son wants to attend CTC, that will definitely not happen. Eric V.

Thank you.

The first year of the programs are superior to the second year. We were disappointed in the second year goals and instruction of the Allied Health and Film and Media programs. Would have chosen other options for the second year.

The NTHS program has been great for both James and Jenna. It is wonderful that CTC recognizes and rewards students for their efforts with 'perfect attendance', 'student of the month', 'student council', NTHS and honor roll.

Very happy with Mrs. Tafelsky

Very little career activities, much time is spent on ELA and Math instead of his course of technical study. His entire year of core activities could possibly be duplicated in a 2 day weekend or summer course. We were anticipating more hands on real world job experience but much time is spent doing normal school bookwork

Recommend Career-Tech Center to other families

Almost all of the parents (96%) responding to this survey would **recommend the Career-Tech Center to other families**. This includes an impressive 78% who reply “definitely yes.”

Very few (just 2%) would not recommend the Career-Tech Center, while 3% are “neutral.”

Definitely yes	78%
Probably yes	18%
Not sure	3%
Probably no	1%
Definitely no	1%
(n)	(125)