

Comparison of Traditional High School versus Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS)

Characteristics	Traditional High School	CTHSS
Academic Curriculum	Academic Curriculum required to meet state graduation requirements is provided over 180 days in two semesters.	Academic Curriculum is provided over a total of 91 days in 10 cycles each lasting approximately 2 weeks. Instructional cycles alternate between technology classes for trade endorsement and academic classes required to meet state graduation requirements.
Academic Intensity	Academic requirements set by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is met over 180 days of instruction.	Academic requirements set by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is met over 91 days of instruction.
Coursework	Student schedules include courses to meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State graduation requirements; and • Electives in various areas such as Art, Music, Technology, Foreign Language 	Student schedules include courses to meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State graduation requirements; and • Technology requirement for industry standards/credentials and state licensing
Class Standards and Pacing (amount of material presented over a set period of time)	Class standards and pacing may be changed to meet special education student needs reflected in their individualized education program (IEP).	Class standards and pacing cannot be changed. Technology curriculum follows industry and business standards, licensing requirements and competencies.
Schedule Flexibility	Schedule typically permits more flexibility for daily re-teaching or reinforcement of learned concepts outside of the general education setting. If needed, students can be scheduled for more than one support or intervention class in addition to core required classes	Schedule provides limited opportunities for re-teaching or reinforcement of learned concepts outside of the general education setting. Opportunities for additional support or intervention classes are limited to one period per day or less.
Scheduling Adjustments	Class and scheduling adjustments may be made based on student need. Changes can be made to length of the school day and intensity of academic demand through course selection. Students may repeat classes if needed.	The ability to make scheduling adjustments is extremely limited due to the demands of scheduling both an academic and technology curriculum. Students have limited choices to fulfill their academic graduation requirements. During the technology cycle, students participate in their technology for the entire day except for one required additional class.
Transition among Activities	Students encounter fewer transitions in a traditional high school and transitions between classes and staff may be adjusted to meet student needs.	Students encounter significantly more transitions within the CTHSS. Students must transition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between academic and technology cycles every two weeks; • Every two days between each technology during the first phase of the 9th grade exploratory and every four days between three technologies during the second phase of the 9th grade exploratory; and • Among off-site work environments with varying demands.
Safety	In order to participate safely in school, environments may be altered or restricted.	In order to participate safely in a technology environment, students must pass a written safety test (with or without accommodations) and demonstrate appropriate application of safe practices.