25 S. Front Street, MS 604
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Phone: *(614) 752-6624*
www.ohiodeca.org

OHIO
DECA

2026-2027 Fact Sheet

DECA PREPARES EMERGING LEADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS IN MARKETING, FINANCE, HOSPITALITY AND MANAGEMENT

25 S. Front Street, MS 604
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Phone: *(614) 752-6624*
www.ohiodeca.org

Ohio DECA:

Ohio DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools across Ohio. Ohio DECA related activities enhance member's preparation for their college and career experiences by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, applying learning in the context of business, connecting to business and the community and promotes competition. DECA members leverage these experiences to become academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible and experienced leaders. Membership in Ohio DECA is open to all students enrolled in an approved Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Business Pathways. The four main business pathways' that members are enrolled in include **C4, C5, G2, S5.**

Board of Directors:

The Ohio DECA Board of Directors is the primary governing body for the organization. The make-up of the Board consists of a talented group of educators, organization and community leaders and professionals. Six members of the Board are made up of Regional representative advisors from across Ohio. Meeting regularly throughout the year, the Board of Directors establishes policies relative to the interpretation and implementation of the constitution and bylaws. The Board of Directors includes voting members and two ex-officio (non-voting) members that include the Board's President and the Chartered Association Advisor.

Ohio DECA Executive Council

The Executive Council is the educator advisor group for Ohio DECA. The Executive Council consists of one advisor from each of the 13 Ohio DECA Districts. The Executive Council Representative is elected by each district according to policies and procedures established by the local advisors within each district. A council member must be an advisor of an active DECA chapter and must have taught for a minimum of two years. An advisor must have local administration approval to hold an Executive Council position.

Career-Technical Education

Career-Technical Education provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners.

Ohio Career-Technical Education Vision

Every Ohio secondary career-technical education graduate is prepared for successful employment and ongoing education, and every Ohio business has the workforce it needs to prosper.

Ohio Career-Technical Education Mission

Provide leadership and support for the successful delivery of quality career-technical education to drive quality workforce development in Ohio.

Career Fields in Ohio

Ohio recognizes **16 career fields** in career-technical education. Students have the opportunity to concentrate on their career-technical education studies in each of these fields.

25 S. Front Street, MS 604
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Phone: *(614) 752-6624*
www.ohiodeca.org

Career-Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

There are six career-technical student organizations that offer CTE students the opportunity to improve technical skills, practice leadership and social skills and volunteer for community and school service activities that are supported by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. These six state-supported CTSOs in Ohio include: *DECA, Business Professionals of America (BPA), Ed Rising, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), FFA and SkillsUSA.*

DECA Facts	Ohio DECA	DECA, Inc.
Leadership:	Drew Goldfinger State Advisor	Frank Peterson Executive Director
Address:	25 South Front Street, MS604 Columbus, OH 43215	1908 Association Drive Reston, VA 20191
Phone Number:	(614) 728-9618	(703) 860-5000
Website:	www.ohiodeca.org	www.deca.org
Mission Statement:	*DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management*	
Annual Theme:	The Next Big Thing	
Annual Dues:	$8.00	$8.00
Regional Breakdown:	Ohio DECA Is divided into 13 Districts and 6 Regions	Ohio DECA is part of the DECA Central Region
Conferences:	Ohio DECA State CDC - February 22nd - 24th, Columbus, OH	DECA ICDC - April 17th - 20th, Anaheim, CA

25 S. Front Street, MS 604
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Phone: *(614) 752-6624*
www.ohiodeca.org

Developing Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Practice Answers Designed to Help You Frame Your Responses

1.) As a legislator, why should I provide funding to career-technical education?

Career-Technical Education inspires students to identify paths to future success and provides students opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for high school graduation and beyond. Students learn through career exploration, taking courses and earning credentials. They also receive customized learning that matches their passions and interests with their career aspirations.

2.) As a businessperson, how can I help Ohio DECA?

We have many opportunities in business and marketing education as well as DECA. Ultimately, any way you could support Ohio DECA would be extremely beneficial to our students and teachers. Whether that be by providing internship or job placement opportunities, to hosting a field trip, to visiting one of our chapters as a guest speaker, to volunteering to judge one of our competitive events, to providing financial support through partnerships to Ohio DECA, or just support our members throughout your community - your impact matters!

3.) How do you start a DECA chapter at your school?

First, you must work with your administration to start a Career-Technical Business Pathway at your school OR convert an existing Business Program into an approved Career-Technical Education Pathway. Unfortunately, without an official Pathway, your school would not be able to establish a DECA chapter.

4.) What is the organization of CTE in Ohio?

CTE is offered in comprehensive districts, compact districts and joint vocational school districts (often called career centers), in grades 7-12 across the state of Ohio. All Ohio CTE workforce development pathways are required to include at least four courses within their program of study, as well as include opportunities for students to earn post-secondary credit, include opportunities to earn relevant industry credentials, participate in career-technical student organizations, participate in work-based learning and technical skill attainment.

25 S. Front Street, MS 604
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
Phone: *(614) 752-6624*
www.ohiodeca.org

Now, Build Your Own Answers to These Questions:

1.) Why is DECA worthwhile?
2.) As a student, how can I get involved in DECA?
3.) Why is Perkins funding important to CTE?
4.) As a parent, how can I get involved in DECA?
5.) What is a policy advocate?
6.) How does Ohio DECA use its money?
7.) Why did you decide to participate in DECA?
8.) How can alumni get involved?

Websites and Materials to Study

DECA, Inc. Website: www.deca.org

1.) What opportunities does DECA offer for leadership and competition?
2.) How does DECA, Inc. provide opportunities for advocacy on the national level?
3.) How do you bring DECA to your school if you do not already have a chapter?
4.) How can a legislator or business professional get involved in DECA?

Ohio DECA Website: www.ohiodeca.org

1.) Who are the members of the Ohio DECA Executive Council?
2.) Who are the members of the Ohio DECA Board of Directors?
3.) What programming opportunities and events does Ohio DECA provide for members?
4.) When is the Ohio DECA State Career Development Conference and how do you qualify?

Advanced CTE Website: www.careertech.org

Please study the following sections:

- Career Technical Education (About CTE and Programs of Study)
- Federal Policy (Perkins Act)
- Promote CTE (All Sections)