



# Career & Technical Education

*Skills for Employment & Lifelong Learning*

## **EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY BRIEF**

February, 2009

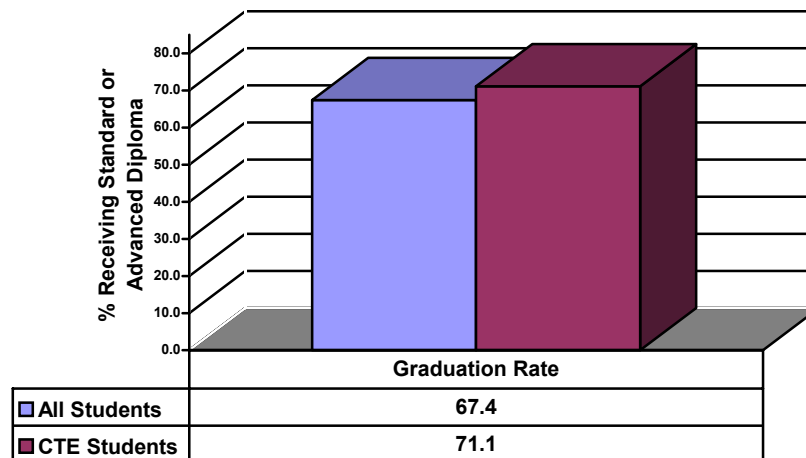
### **Career and Technical Education Students Graduate at Higher Rates**

In addition to providing students with valuable occupational skills and facilitating employment and further education and training, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs focus on academic skill attainment and improve the likelihood of students successfully completing secondary and postsecondary diplomas, credentials, and certificates.

Previous data from the 2006-07 school year indicates that the dropout rate for students participating in CTE programs in Nevada secondary schools is 1.5 percent, considerably lower than Nevada's overall high school dropout rate of 4.8 percent. The present findings indicate that, for the 2007 graduating class, Nevada's CTE students' graduation rate of 71.1 percent is higher than the overall graduation rate of 67.4 percent for all Nevada students.

The graduation rates here are restricted to students receiving standard or advanced diplomas. In addition to standard and advanced diplomas, students can complete high school with an adult diploma, adjusted diploma, or a certificate of attendance.

#### **Nevada High School Standard or Advanced Diploma Graduation Rate for All Students and for CTE Students, Graduating Class of 2007**



For further information, contact:

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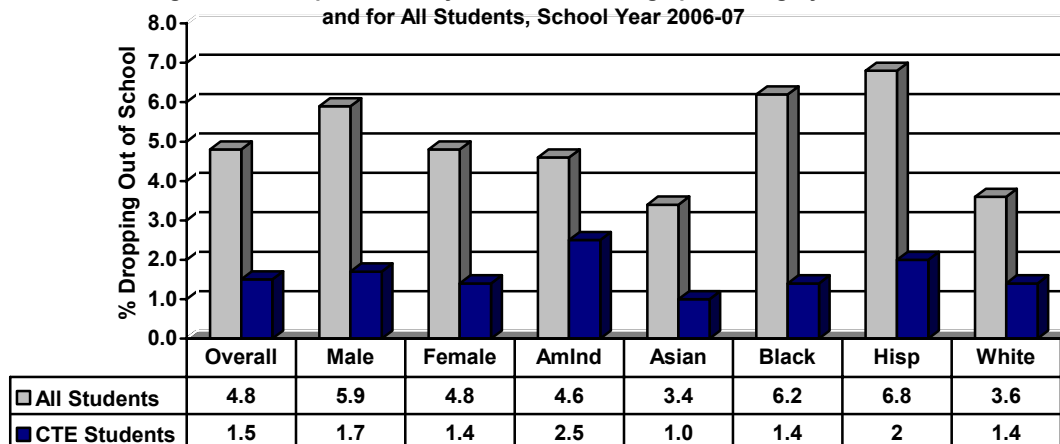
### High Graduation Rate and Low Dropout Rates for Career and Technical Education Students in the 2006-07 School Year

In the 2006-2007 school year, the graduation rate for Nevada high school students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs was a very respectable 71.10%, 3.7 percentage points higher than the state rate of 67.4%. Such large differences are not surprising given that previous briefs have found that, as a group, CTE students perform higher on the required Nevada High School Proficiency Examinations and have considerably lower dropout rates than state dropout rates.

The figure below provides Nevada dropout rates by gender and race/ethnicity category for high school students enrolled in CTE programs and the state figures for all high school students. The CTE students' dropout rate in Nevada was a low 1.5% in the 2006-07 school year. The state's overall high school dropout rate was 4.8%, a slight increase from the previous year. The overall dropout rate in Nevada is influenced by the low CTE students' rate since nearly half of the public high school students (over 49.7%) participate in CTE programs, suggesting a considerably higher dropout rate for non-CTE students than the overall state rate.

The impact of CTE programs on lower dropout rates among minority students, especially black/African American and Hispanic students, continued in the 2006-07 data. The data shows that the dropout rate in each category of CTE students is lower than the corresponding rate for all students in the same category. Further, no dropout rate in any of the general population categories fell below the highest dropout rate for CTE students (2.5 for American Indian CTE students).

Nevada High School Dropout Rates by Gender and Demographic Category for CTE Students and for All Students, School Year 2006-07



For further information, contact:

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