

**Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is unique in that it's the only school subject that...**

- **Focuses on the multiple roles** of men and women in today's society as family members, wage earners and community citizens.
- **Addresses the immediate needs** of students.
- **Enhances skills** that promote strong family connections.
- **Promotes human service professions** centered on meeting the needs of people.

### **Career Cluster Connection**

FCS is strongly tied to the Human Service career cluster which includes these pathways (with sample occupations listed):

- **Education and Training**—Teacher/Trainer
- **Family and Community Services**—Social Worker/Therapist/Elder Care/Dietician/Counselor
- **Consumer Services**—Financial Counselor/Customer Services
- **Early Childhood Development and Services**—Child Care Director/Care Provider/ Early Childhood Educators/Nanny

Other cluster connections—

- **Hospitality and Tourism**—Culinary Arts
- **Visual Arts**—Fashion Design
- **Design/Pre-Construction**—Interior Design

### **FCS in Today's Schools**

*FCS courses are offered in two tracks, local electives which adapt to fit the needs of students and KSDE recognized approved pathway courses which encourage building knowledge and skills that prepare students for high demand, high skill or high wage careers. The KSDE recognized courses are called “Career and Technical Education” or CTE.*

*Local electives are built around the areas of child development, nutrition, relationships, leadership, meal preparation, character development and independent living skills. Content is at the discretion of the local instructor and administration.*

*CTE courses are offered in a sequence which introduces skills in a manner that encourages learning and higher order thinking skills. Skills are covered first as an introductory course, and are expanded within the technical courses, or second course of the sequence. These are specific to a particular pathway.*

*All skills are used in the third, or application course to increase retention and prepare the student for entry to a post-secondary school or entry- level employment.*

*Additional federal and state funding is provided to assist in the costs associated with the CTE courses. These courses require specialized equipment, trained teachers and can have smaller enrollments.*

## Direct Connection of FCS Content to Today's Concerns

The **two fastest growing CTE fields** are Food Service/Culinary Arts and Early Childhood Services.<sup>1</sup>

“**Prevention is the key** to improving the health and quality of life for all Americans, now and for future generations. At every stage of life, **eating a nutritious, balanced diet** and staying physically active are essential for health and well-being. This is **especially true for children and adolescents** who are developing the habits they will likely maintain throughout their lives.”<sup>2</sup>

**Quality child care is vital to the economy** because business and industry would be affected if their workers with children did not have quality care.

**Other FCS topics addressing today's issues of concern** are the need for strong communication skill, promotion of healthy relationships, learning budgeting/credit decision making, goal setting and others.

In addition, *Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)* provides students with leadership development and personal growth through the FCS classroom.

(Sources: 1. Family and Consumer Sciences Programs in Secondary Schools, Journal of FCS, Vol 98, pg 19-25; 2006; 2 CDC Congressional Testimony , William H. Dietz, MD, PhD Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Friday, May 15, 2009.)

## Why Retain Family & Consumer Sciences?



Most FCS courses are elective (meaning not required for graduation) even though the curriculum meets the needs of students today and tomorrow's parents, workforce and community citizens.

**What can you do?** Encourage schools to support the continuation of FCS programs in schools as a fulltime course offering; Support required courses in nutrition, parenting and consumer education for ALL students and for high school graduation.

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