

EL CERRITO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

The El Cerrito Information Technology Academy is a small learning community that prepares students for careers and pursuits in the vast field of technology by building technical skills through project-based learning, collaborative design and production, and interaction with industry professionals.

Some of the many careers this high-demand Academy prepares students for are:

- *Graphic Designer*
- *Website Developer*
- *Programmer*
- *IT Technician*



**West Contra Costa
Unified School District**
El Cerrito High School
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El Cerrito Information Technology Academy



El Cerrito High School

ITA

Information Technology Academy

West Contra Costa
Unified School District

*The mission of the West Contra
Costa County Unified School
District is to prepare students for
college and their future careers.*



What We Are

Our pathway moves far beyond the old “vocational ed” model. Today’s high-demand, high-wage jobs all require post-secondary education, and we are addressing the need for students who are better prepared for career and college with an emphasis on career preparation alongside traditional education.

We emphasize a rigorous curriculum in critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills, along with specific career technical skills. We are increasingly offering students early college credit in our pathways.

All pathways focus on solid, broadly transferable skills that will serve students well even if they decide to go in another direction after high school.

Students and parents choose a pathway option together during 8th or 9th grade. More information is available at wccusdpathways.org, along with a video presentation of the pathway.

Pathway teachers work together as a team to create connections between their courses and to embed real world projects. As a team, they can provide individualized student support. Most students say their pathway experience is like their school family and that it helped to give them direction and confidence.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

All pathway students have an opportunity to go on experiential study trips to relevant places of employment and education.

Pathway teachers and industry partners work together to help students create résumés and practice interviewing skills during their junior year.

Pathway juniors meet with industry mentors and are assisted to apply for a summer internship before senior year.

During their senior year, students participate in a service learning project in the community. Their pathway experience culminates with a presentation to a panel of professionals highlighting their learning experience and fielding questions.



GET INVOLVED

There are a number of ways we welcome parents, community and business partners to get involved! Please visit wccusdpathways.org and hit the “Get Involved” button to see the various ways we could use your help! You will be contacted by our Work-Based Learning Coordinator, who will help to make the arrangements easy for you and to ensure a positive experience.



- In grades 10 and 11, all students take one course in web design and one in information systems design and management, which includes coding.
- In their senior year, students choose between Web Design 2 or Information Systems Design 2. Web Design 2 may earn students 3 transferrable college credits.
- Students may also earn industry recognized certificates, such as CISCO and Adobe certifications.
- Our list of IT business partners includes Google, Pandora and many others, which students have an opportunity to visit.
- Students also participate in an IT pathway day at Contra Costa College to become familiar with their IT pathways and credentials.
- All WCCUSD IT pathway students are greatly supported by and guided by the Whittier Foundation’s Tech Futures organization.
- There are many opportunities for summer internships related to this pathway; it is a very high growth sector in the East Bay economy.