

FAST FACS FACTS

- Family and Consumer Sciences education empowers individuals and families across the lifespan to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society. The unique focus is on families, work, and their interrelationships.
- Family and Consumer Sciences education has roots in both academic and career/technical education and reaches beyond the educational system into the community as it focuses on the needs of individuals and families.
- Family and Consumer Sciences programs foster student attainment of the intermediate and commencement level New York State Learning Standards in both Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS).
- Family and Consumer Sciences education prepares students for success in both postsecondary education and employment
- Family and Consumer Sciences education is one of the disciplines covered by the Career and Technical Education (CTE) umbrella. As such, Commissioner's Regulations and NYSED policies developed for CTE programs and students apply to Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Family and Consumer Sciences courses meet the needs of New York State's diverse student population often serving mixed abilities and mixed grade levels in the same room at the same time. The common denominator for Family and Consumer Sciences students is their interest in the topics they study.
- Family and Consumer Sciences courses are to be taught using a hands-on experiential approach. Learning occurs in the context of real-life situations and repeated practice is encouraged. Family and Consumer Sciences courses should be delivered in laboratory settings and involve hands-on instruction. The use of real-life relevant tasks, laboratories, simulations, and community involvement is an integral part of these courses as is the use of research, class discussions, and group activities.
- All Family and Consumer Sciences courses, including Home and Career Skills, must be taught by a certified Family and Consumer Sciences teacher.

- Commencement level Family and Consumer Sciences education is delivered through a variety of course offerings in the Human and Public Services career cluster that can be arranged in a variety of pathways including Human Services and Family Studies, Foods and Nutrition, and Textiles and Design.
- Middle level Family and Consumer Sciences education is delivered through the state-mandated course, Home and Career Skills.
- Home and Career Skills is a course designed to help middle level students live in a society of constant change and to improve their quality of life by preparing them to meet their present and future responsibilities as family member and community members, consumers, home managers, and wage earners. The goal is to educate early adolescents to think constructively, make sound decisions, solve problems, and manage resources.
- Home and Career Skills is a skills-based curriculum. Students acquire and demonstrate communication, critical and creative thinking, and leadership and management skills that can be applied at home, in school, in the community and in the workplace now and in the future.
- The Home and Career Skills course affords all students multiple opportunities to read, write, and compute in the context of real-world situations that are relevant to early adolescents. Home and Career Skills projects show students the answer to the question, "Why do I have to know this?" Students in Home and Career Skills may experience success in attaining academic standards that have given them difficulty in traditional academic settings.
- By Commissioner's Regulation every middle-level student is entitled to a $\frac{3}{4}$ unit course in Home and Career Skills by the end of grade 8. The local school determines how it will schedule instructional time for this course. Instruction should not begin prior to grade 5 and must be delivered by a certified FACS (or formerly Home Economics) teacher.
- Commissioner's Regulations 100.4 (a) (2) and 100.4 (c) (1-3) outline the requirements for instruction in Home and Career Skills. The following chart summarizes these regulations:

Commissioner’s Regulation 100.4

Middle-level Home and Career Skills

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1004.html>

Regulation	Excerpts of Exact Regulatory Language Concerning Home and Career Skills Instruction	Meaning for Implementation
100.4 Program requirements for grades five through eight		
100.4 (a) (2) Definitions	<p>2. Home and career skills means a program of instruction designed to assist all students in meeting State intermediate learning standards for family and consumer sciences and to assist all students to develop strategies to manage multiple individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities through instructional activities which incorporate concepts of science, mathematics, social science and language arts.</p>	<p>Description of the overall purpose of Home and Career Skills instruction:</p> <p>Home and Career Skills is for all students.</p> <p>The goal of instruction is to assist students in meeting intermediate NYS learning standards for FACS and CDOS.</p> <p>Students learn and practice skills to meet multiple roles.</p> <p>Home and Career Skills instruction will support attainment of standards in academic areas</p>
100.4 (c) (1) Units of study in grades seven and eight	<p>1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all students shall be provided instruction designed to enable them to achieve, by the end of grade eight, State intermediate learning standards through:</p> <p>(vi) home and career skills, three quarters of a unit of study;</p> <p>Note: Units of study are defined in CR 100.1 Unit of study means at least 180 minutes of instruction per week throughout the school year, or the equivalent.</p>	<p>Original regulation was for grades 7 and 8 as schools at that time were organized as junior high buildings and generally housed grades 7 and 8.</p> <p>3/4 quarters of a unit of study means 180 minutes of instruction per week for 30 weeks, or the equivalent.</p>

<p>100.4 (c) (2) Units of study in grades seven and eight</p>	<p>2. The requirements for technology education, home and career skills, and library and information skills may be met by the integration of the State learning standards of such subjects into other courses in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <p>(i) In public schools, the unit of study requirements specified in subparagraphs (1) (v) (vi) [above] and/or (xii) of this subdivision are met.</p> <p>Note: (v) concerns technology education; (xii) concerns the CDOS standards</p> <p>(ii) In public schools, the subjects of technology education and home and career skills shall be taught by persons certified to teach those subjects.</p>	<p>It is possible to integrate Home and Career Skills instruction into other disciplines, however...</p> <p>the time requirement for Home and Career Skills must still be met. For example, if Home and Career Skills were integrated into social studies, then 40 weeks of social studies would have to be increased to 70 weeks in order to meet the unit of study requirements, and...</p> <p>instruction in the Home and Career Skills content would have to be delivered by a certified Family and Consumer Sciences (or formerly certified Home Economics) teacher.</p> <p>Integration does not result in financial savings for a district when integration follows the requirements of CR 100.4. The purpose is program enhancement.</p>
<p>100.4 © (3) Units of study in grades seven and eight (extension of middle level to grades five and six)</p>	<p>3. The unit of study requirements for technology education and/or home and career skills included in paragraph (1) of this subdivision may be initiated in grade five, provided that in public schools such subjects shall be taught by teachers certified in those areas.</p>	<p>Home and Career Skills instruction can begin as early as grade five. This is helpful for schools that are configured as 5-8 or 6-8 middle schools.</p> <p>Instruction must be delivered by a certified Family and Consumer Sciences (or formerly certified Home Economics) teacher.</p>

Links for further information:

NYSED Home Page <http://www.nysed.gov/home.html>

NYSED CTE Home Page <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/>

NYSED FACS Home Page <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/facse/>

NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives Teacher Certification Home Page
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/>

NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives Teacher Certification- Incidental Teaching
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/employmentissues.html#incidental>