

Roots Charter High School

CTE 3-5 Year Plan

Roots Charter High School empowers students who have disengaged from traditional education by providing hands-on, community-focused, and purpose-driven career and technical education programs that embody the "Roots Way" and the values of love, connection, and growth expressed in "243." Through the integration of our six-acre farm, we cultivate not only crops but also resilience, responsibility, and relationships that transform lives.

1. Foundational Development and Alignment with "The Roots Way"

Program Evaluation through the Lens of "The Roots Way":

- Assess existing CTE programs to ensure alignment with the school's mission of serving students who have dropped out, been kicked out, or disengaged with traditional education models.
- Conduct surveys and focus groups emphasizing the values of connection and choice.
- Evaluate how programs honor community and promote engagement with the six-acre farm.

Farm Integration:

- Develop a plan to incorporate the six-acre farm into every CTE pathway, emphasizing its role as a peaceful, beautiful, and fruitful place for learning and growth.
- Design projects that align with the principle of "reaping what we sow."

Community Partnerships:

- Establish relationships with local organizations that share the values of respect, connection, and collaboration.
- Form an advisory board of industry leaders, alumni, and farm stakeholders.
- Staff Development: Train staff to model and teach "The Roots Way," ensuring that they embody the principles of choice, energy, and aligned actions.



2. Program Enhancement and Farm-Centric Growth

CTE Pathways Expansion:

- Develop new pathways that leverage the six-acre farm, such as sustainable agriculture, environmental science, and agribusiness.
- Survey students to identify interests aligned with the farm's resources.
- Create farm-based internships and entrepreneurial projects.

Work-Based Learning Opportunities:

- Build systems for students to engage with community partners and use the farm as a hub for internships and apprenticeships.
- Align opportunities with the principle of connection and sowing goodness.

Student Support Services:

- Launch initiatives to help students set and achieve goals rooted in their unique potential and challenges.
- Provide career counseling that integrates the farm's lessons on resilience and responsibility.

Celebrating "243":

- Create events and campaigns that celebrate love and connection as core elements of student success.
- Host farm-to-table dinners to engage the community and showcase student achievements.



3. Innovation and Deeper Engagement with "The Roots Way"

Interdisciplinary Learning:

- Use the farm as a central theme to integrate academic and technical skills.
- Develop cross-curricular projects that link math, science, and CTE skills to farming and sustainability.

Technology and Sustainability:

- Invest in tools and practices that model sustainable agriculture and innovative farming techniques.
- Provide students with training in emerging technologies like hydroponics and solar energy.

Community and Farm Engagement:

- Strengthen the sense of connection by hosting annual showcases of student work, including farm-based products and projects.

Mentorship and Leadership:

- Develop mentorship programs that connect students with alumni, industry professionals, and farm experts.
- Encourage students to mentor their peers in alignment with "The Roots Way."



4-5. Sustained Excellence through "243" and Farm-Centered Practices

Program Evaluation and Continuous Growth:

- Assess the impact of farm integration on student outcomes and make improvements based on data.
- Ensure all programs continue to honor "The Roots Way."

Advanced Opportunities:

- Expand dual enrollment and certification programs connected to the farm, enabling students to graduate with industry-recognized credentials.

Equity and Access:

- Evaluate that all students, particularly those from underserved backgrounds, have access to farm resources and opportunities.
- Provide supports that align with the belief in connection and choice.

Celebrating "Reaping What We Sow":

- Institutionalize traditions that celebrate the school's unique mission and values.
- Expand the annual "Roots Harvest Festival" to honor growth and community.

Metrics for Success

- Increased retention and re-engagement of students who have struggled in traditional education.
- High levels of satisfaction among students, staff, and community stakeholders.
- Growth in farm-based projects and certifications earned by students.
- Tangible improvements in student outcomes, including graduation rates and meaningful post-secondary placements.



Roots Charter High School's CTE Strategic Plan is a commitment to transforming lives through the power of community, connection, and purpose. By intertwining "The Roots Way," "243," and the six-acre farm, we provide students with a pathway to re-engage with learning, achieve their goals, and sow seeds of goodness that will bear fruit for a lifetime.