

# FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION

ISSUE BRIEF/National Coalition of Family & Consumer Sciences Education

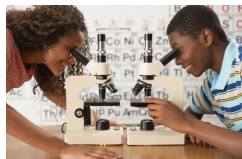


OBESITY PREVENTION *workforce*  
*development* PERSONAL FINANCIAL  
LITERACY *work-life balance* RIGOR  
*parenting education* HUMAN NEEDS  
RELEVANCE *critical thinking*

## MAIN POINTS:

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION IS A PREVENTION STRATEGY THAT IMPROVES MANY CHALLENGING SOCIETAL CONDITIONS

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION EXISTS IN NUMEROUS MIDDLE & SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION HAS A PLATFORM FOR CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWING RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES TO BE USED BY CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN A TIMELY MANNER

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO THINK CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY, PROBLEM SOLVE, AND WORK EFFECTIVELY IN A TEAM TO SOLVE REAL WORLD ISSUES.



## WHY FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION?

Numerous articles, editorials, and radio discussions have been asking "Where is Home Economics?". Individuals leading the discussion have ranged from medical doctors, cardiologists, entrepreneurs, dietitians, and financial planners. The motivation for such a request comes from the **evidence** that our society is faced with many **perennial issues** that negatively impact individuals, families and communities. Each issue (obesity, financial literacy, career preparation, work-life balance, to name a few) can be mitigated through family and consumer sciences education curriculum and courses. Family and consumer sciences education is vital to the improvement of the **quality of life**. Family and consumer sciences curriculum brings to life **academic disciplines** such as science, technology, engineering and math (**STEM**) and connects students to **real world applications** of such content.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION TODAY



Family and consumer sciences education serves as a foundation for **life literacy education**. One curriculum goal is to improve students' ability to be successful in today's world. As outlined by **National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences** (NASAFACS, 2008-2018) content such as nutrition and wellness; interpersonal relationships; child development; parenting; consumer, personal and family finance; goal setting; problem solving; communication, and conflict resolution are instrumental to an individual's development as a **successful career-life manager**. Success in **work-life balance** and **family relationships** impacts career productivity and success. A community is only as healthy as the individuals living and working there. Family and consumer sciences programs integrate leadership development opportunities for youth through Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

## A GATEWAY TO HIGH DEMAND PROFESSIONS

Family & consumer sciences education provides the first step to a **high skill, high wage, high demand career** opportunity. Many of the skills needed for **success** are included in the standards guiding family and consumer sciences course curriculum. A few examples of professional jobs related to family and consumer sciences are: apparel and textile design/merchandising; dietetics, education, food and nutrition sciences, human development and family studies, hospitality, interior design, nutrition and fitness, communications, and consumer economics and financial planning. **Complex 21st century skills** are best learned if first taught in an family and consumer sciences education classroom. Student needs are addressed through **hands-on educational and laboratory-based experiences** that integrate **developmentally appropriate theory** and **research-based teaching strategies** to facilitate learning for the adolescent learner.

# WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

*related to Family and Consumer Sciences Education*



According to the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS), the following realities will impact workforce needs of today:

## ★Specializations in FCS

relate to solving critical issues of today

- ★ **Administration and human services careers:** Rapid changes in society are stressful to individuals across the lifespan (from childhood to adulthood)
  - ★ Expansion of the need for **dependent care, prevention and wellness education**
  - ★ **Hospitality, tourism and travel industries** are growing in many states across the nation resulting in an increased demand for **managers of hotels, restaurants, and spas**
  - ★ **Food manufacturing** companies seek FCS graduates to work in **product development, consumer affairs, public policy, strategic planning, marketing and research**
  - ★ **Counselors** are needed to work with individuals faced with alcohol/drug abuse and in **family crisis centers**
  - ★ **Interior and fashion designers** who combine creative abilities with technical knowledge, business expertise, and global awareness will **own, manage, and address environmental concerns while operating private businesses** as well as work on **design teams**
  - ★ **Merchandising** graduates will apply marketing and management skills to all aspects of retailing. **Developing and designing equipment and apparel** for youth, disabled, and aging populations
  - ★ **Family and consumer sciences educators and early childhood professionals** will continue to be needed to assure that children and youth are prepared for future as family members and professionals in our complex society
- ★ **Community agencies, fund development companies, and positions in human resources and youth programs** are demanding graduates with skills linked to degrees in family and consumer sciences
  - ★ Individuals who **develop improved products and services** are needed to meet the needs of consumers and clients in areas such as:
    - ★ **designing improved appliances, fabrics and furniture;**
    - ★ **create and evaluate food products in a test kitchen;**
    - ★ **perform tests of new/improved products/services;**
    - ★ **experiment with methods for labeling, serving, and motivating consumers;**
    - ★ **create computer software for financial planning and budgeting;**
    - ★ **write instructions for users/providers**
  - ★ Professionals who can approach the following with a holistic view of individuals, families, & communities:
    - ★ **research needs, attitudes and markets**
    - ★ **inform the public** using journalism, public relations, social media, web media and other print materials
    - ★ **manage operations** using strong administrative skills
    - ★ **teach** in a variety of settings

## The National Coalition for Family & Consumer Sciences Education

The National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education represents a national infrastructure of professionals serving youth, teachers, state agency supervisors, teacher educators, researchers and others. Professional associations represented are:

- ★ American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
- ★ Association for Career and Technical Education
- ★ Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- ★ Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association

