

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**6:00 PM**

**May 7, 2025**

**Walsh Intermediate School**

**Collaboration & Innovation Center (Room 112)**

**185 Damascus Road, Branford CT**

To access and listen to this meeting please go to [www.branfordschools.org](http://www.branfordschools.org)

**Community Agreement**

The Board of Education is committed to supporting the mission, vision, core values and global learning competencies of the Branford Public Schools. We are here to provide access for all students in close collaboration with the Superintendent and in partnership with the larger community.

**A G E N D A**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Discussion/Action
  - A. CNA Program
  - B. Year in Review and Future Planning
- V. Adjourn

**TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENTS REMOTELY PLEASE CALL:**

**1 (646) 558-8656**

**Meeting ID: 815 6405 4671**

**Passcode: 812124**

***When participating by telephone please mute your phone when joining the meeting and unmute your phone when you are ready to speak. This can be done by pressing \*6 on your phone's keypad.***

**Rules Governing Public Comments**

Guests attending meetings in person or virtually are invited to make public comment. Speakers must identify themselves by name and address. While the Board does not respond to public comment during the meeting, the Chair and Superintendent will work collaboratively to make sure your comments are thoughtfully considered. Disruptive conduct may result in termination of participation privileges or removal from meetings. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker.

# Branford Board of Education Teaching and Learning Committee

May 7, 2025



# Tonight @ Teaching and Learning

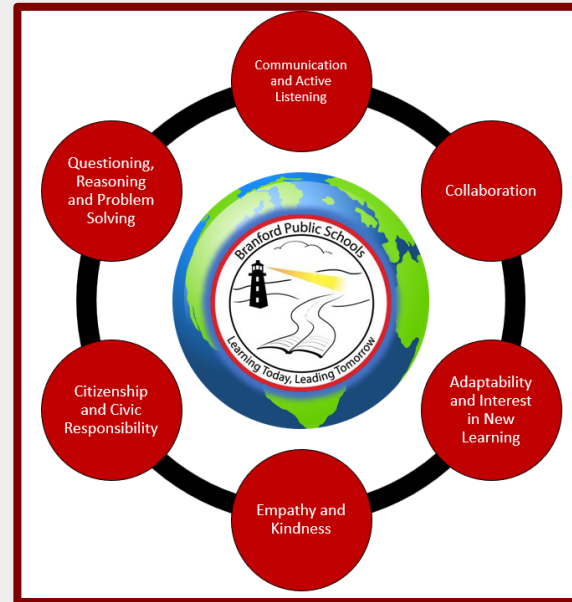


1. BHS CNA Program
2. T&L Year in Review

# Mission & Global Competencies

## Mission

The Branford Public School's community is committed to developing lifelong learners who are capable and confident, who contribute to their community, and who succeed in a changing global society.



# Strategic Coherence Plan (SCP)

## Goals

1. Ensure equal opportunity for growth and development for all Branford students.
2. **Align the key systems in the District to support the student acquisition of the Global Learning Competencies through the implementation of the Definition of Deep Learning.**
3. Improve the process and tools used to communicate and engage critical stakeholders.



# Definition of Deep Learning

**Feedback:** Providing continuous skills development, recognizing progress at each stage, while incorporating mentoring, feedback, and support throughout the learning process.

**Content:** Ensuring students progress from initial understanding to application of content by continuously reviewing and upgrading their knowledge and skills, using high-quality resources, and engaging in hands-on experiences.

**Context:** Promoting intrinsic motivation and student engagement in the pursuit of learning by communicating high expectations within an environment of clear rules and procedures and nurturing relationships.

**Community:** Cultivating a safe, supportive, and collaborative culture with colleagues, students, and families to optimize learning for educators and students.





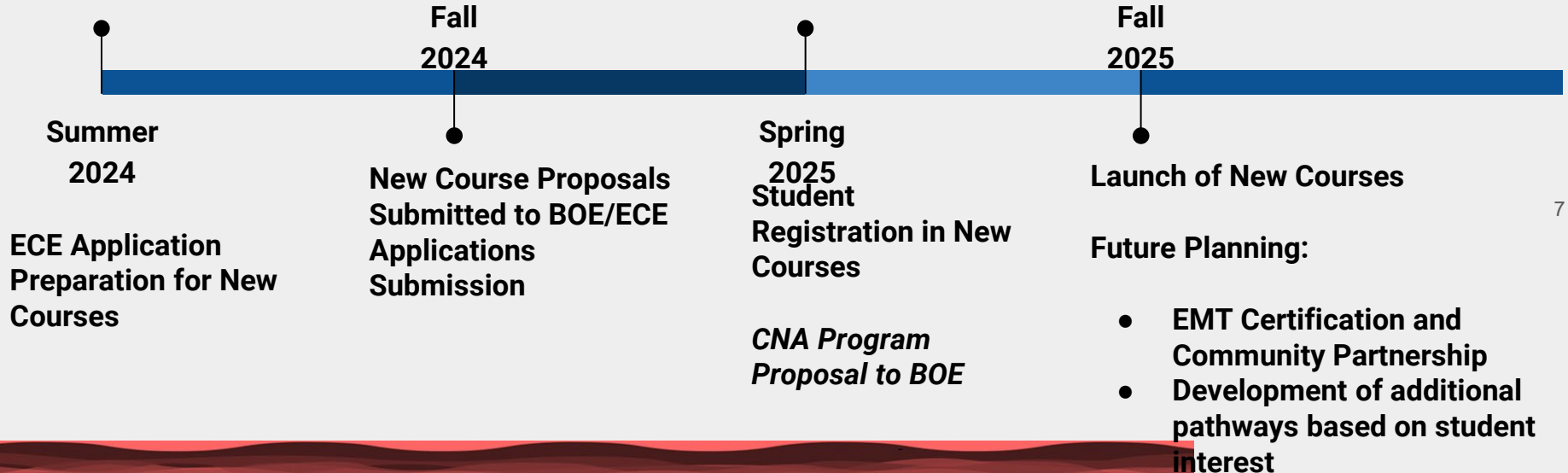
# BHS CNA Program

# Development of Pathways



## Goals for 25/26 School Year:

- Development of Pathway: Health Science
- Strengthen ECE program offerings







# CNA Program: Why a CNA Program?

- Responds to workforce demand in healthcare
- Aligns with student interest in medical careers
- Provides early college/career experience
- Offers state-recognized certification

- Immediate post-pandemic healthcare needs
- National CNA shortage
- Provides meaningful pathways for students with career/college goals
- Strategic alignment with BHS CTE and STEM goals



# CNA Program: Program Overview



- Offered in partnership with Excel Academy
- 1.5 credit course (Science/STEM elective)
- Blended learning model: classroom + clinical
- Eligible for Connecticut CNA Certification Exam

# CNA Program: Student Benefits

- Certification before high school graduation
- Preparation for nursing/healthcare careers
- Builds critical soft skills: empathy, communication, problem-solving
- Clinical hours may support future graduate programs



# CNA Program: Target Audience



- Juniors and Seniors: Must be 16 years of age or turning 16 within the school year

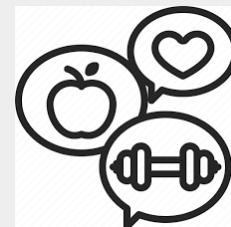
Especially those interested in:

- Healthcare
- Direct-to-workforce paths
- Nursing school or allied health careers

# CNA Program: Curriculum Highlights

## Modules Covering:

- Communication and safety
- Basic and personal care skills
- Mental health & cognitive impairments
- Restorative services
- Resident rights
- Total: **100+ hours** (classroom + clinical)



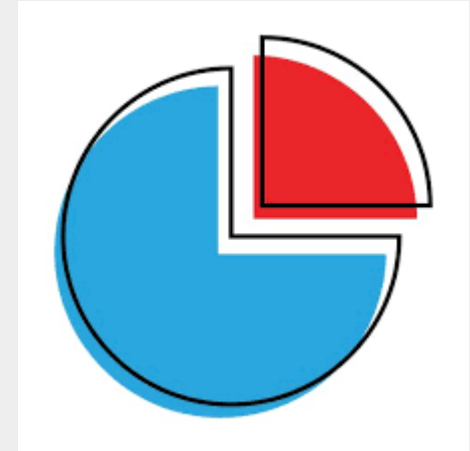
# CNA Program: Logistics and Facility



- ❑ Two dedicated classrooms:
  - ❑ One for instruction
  - ❑ One for a skills lab (4 hospital beds, sink, bathroom)
- ❑ No new staffing needed (Excel Academy provides RN instructor)
- ❑ Estimated enrollment: 10 students (minimum 8)

# CNA Program: Budget Overview

- Cost per Student: \$1,500
- Covers tuition, materials, equipment, instructor, clinical supervision
- Additional \$138 per student for CNA exam
- Year 1 Cost (10 students): \$16,380
- Funding: Covered by grants and building-based budget



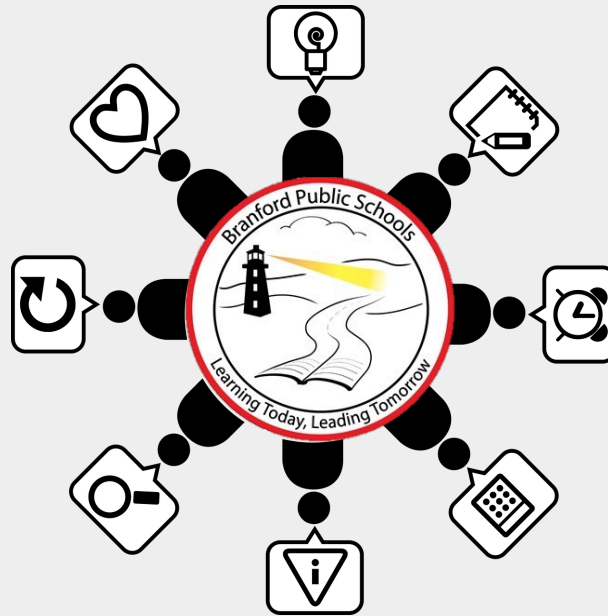
# CNA Program: Community Partnerships



- Excel Academy partnership ensures high-quality instruction and clinical placements
- Builds bridges with local healthcare providers
- Strengthens our role in workforce development



# Discussion



# Year in Review

Teaching and Learning 2024-  
2025



# September

- Summer Programs:  
Conceptual Overview and  
Assessment Outcomes
- Overview of Teaching and  
Learning Committee  
Calendar for 2024-2025

# October

- Secondary Performance Update
  - Attendance Data
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
  - Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (NGSS)
  - Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)
  - AimswebPlus
- School Goals: Walsh & BHS
- Harboring Civility: Embracing Differences through Discours



# November

- Elementary Performance Update
  - Attendance Data
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
  - AimswebPlus
- School Goals: JBS, MTM, MRT

# December

- BHS New Course Proposals:
  1. Biology Honors
  2. ECE Introduction to Allied Health Professions (UConn)
  3. ECE Medical Terminology (Uconn)
  4. Robotics Foundations
  5. Residential Construction
  6. ECE Kinesiology: Exercise and Wellness for Everyone (UConn)
  7. ECE Intermediate Spanish Composition (UConn)
  8. Art and Culture
- Proposed Enhancements to Early Childhood Education: Full-Day Pre-K



# January

- K-4 Math Textbook Selection  
Process: think!Mathematics & Developing Roots
- Summer School Data:  
Aimsweb, Grades and Attendance

# March

- Student Learning Update:
  - Winter Aimsweb Data (K-8)
  - PSAT
- K-4 Literacy Update - From Program to Resource: Meeting the Needs of All Learners

# April

- Leader in Me at Walsh Intermediate School
- High School Textbook Proposals:
  - Biology
  - Medical Terminology
  - Environmental Science
  - Health Now: An Integrative Approach to Personal Health
  - Perspectivas (Spanish)
  - The Language of Composition

# May

- Certified Nurse Aide Program Proposal
- Year in Review & Future Planning

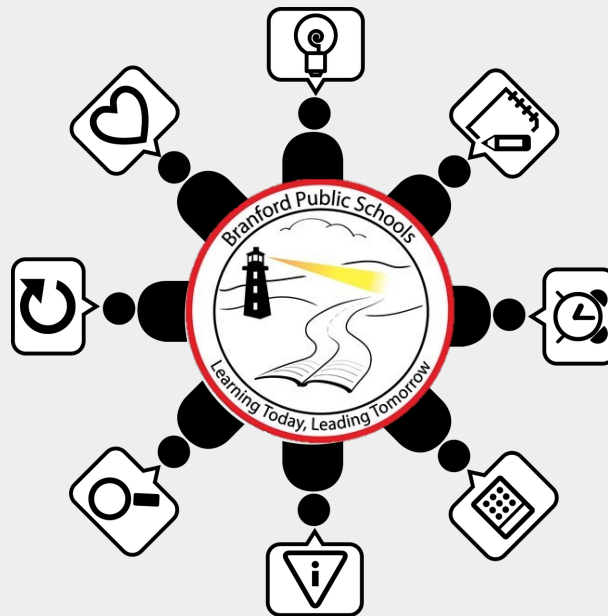


# Looking Ahead: Future Planning

Teaching and Learning 2025-  
2026



# Discussion







## BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

**Course Title: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program**

**Credit: 1.5**

**Credit Area(s): Science, STEM Elective**

**Course Proposed by:**

- Administration
- Board of Education
- Department
- Students (in collaboration with faculty)
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

***New courses must embed indicators of deep learning:***

- Feedback: Providing continuous skills development, recognizing progress at each stage, while incorporating mentoring, feedback, and support throughout the learning process.
- Content: Ensuring students progress from initial understanding to application of content by continuously reviewing and upgrading their knowledge and skills, using high-quality resources, and engaging in hands-on experiences.
- Context: Promoting intrinsic motivation and student engagement in the pursuit of learning by communicating high expectations within an environment of clear rules and procedures and nurturing relationships.
- Community: Cultivating a safe, supportive, and collaborative culture with colleagues, students, and families to optimize learning for educators and students.

**Course Catalog Description:**

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at Branford High School, offered in partnership with Excel Academy, provides students with a comprehensive education and hands-on training for a rewarding career in healthcare. This program equips students with the essential knowledge and practical skills to work as CNAs in a variety of healthcare settings, including assisted living facilities, hospices, hospitals, and home care. CNA certification not only prepares students for immediate entry into the healthcare workforce but also serves as a valuable stepping stone for those pursuing advanced studies in health and medical sciences. It offers clinical hours that can count toward future graduate school requirements in nursing and other healthcare professions.

Whether students are beginning their career as a CNA or preparing for further studies in nursing or healthcare, this program provides a dynamic and fulfilling learning experience that will set you on the path to a successful and impactful career in healthcare.

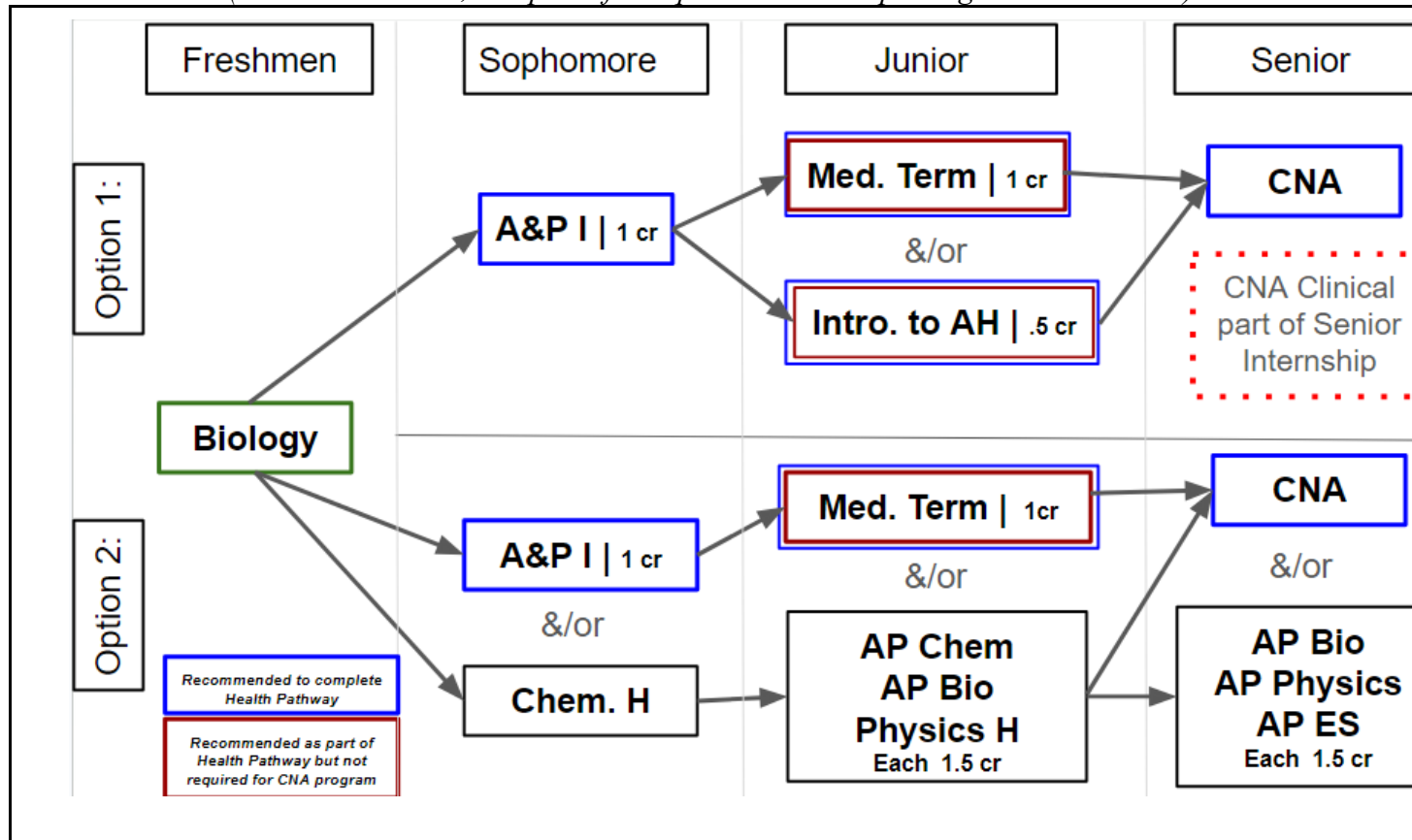
**Prerequisite(s):**

While there are no course prerequisites required, it is recommended that students take ECE Medical Terminology and ECE Introduction to Allied Health Professions.

Per the state of Connecticut, students must be 16 years of age, or turning 16 during the school year, to participate. Students must also have proof of health and vaccinations, including a current flu and COVID vaccine, and current physical.

## COURSE/DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

How does this course fit into the course offerings? Establish a flow chart of courses and indicate where this course will fit in. (*Is it a stand alone, is it part of a sequence or is it replacing another course?*)



How many electives does your department currently offer and what are they?

- AP/ECE Biology
- AP Chemistry
- Anatomy/Physiology
- Forensics
- AP Physics
- Natural Disasters
- Investigating Life Beyond Earth
- Marine Biology
- Environmental A/B
- AP Environmental Science
- ECE Introduction to Allied Health Professions
- ECE Medical Terminology

Who is your target audience?

The target audience for the CNA course includes high school juniors and seniors at Branford High School who are interested in pursuing careers in healthcare, particularly those planning to enter the workforce directly after graduation or seeking a foundational step toward nursing and other health professions.

What are the pros and cons of this submission? Have these been thoroughly discussed by the department?

This course proposal offers several compelling advantages. It addresses a critical and growing demand for healthcare professionals, particularly Certified Nursing Assistants, by equipping students with industry-recognized credentials prior to graduation. It supports career readiness, provides a direct pathway into the workforce, and serves as a strong foundation for students pursuing advanced education in nursing or health sciences. The program aligns with state certification standards and offers a well-rounded experience through both classroom instruction and clinical practice. Additionally, it enhances the district's offerings and builds partnerships with local healthcare providers. However, there are also important considerations. The course requires an initial investment in equipment, supplies, and appropriate instructional space, which we were able to cover through grants, and building-based budgets. Additionally, while it also involves logistical complexities such as coordinating clinical placements, ensuring students meet age and health requirements, and trained, certified staff to deliver the program, our partnership with Excel Academy addresses these potential challenges. The benefits to students and the broader community make this a highly valuable addition to the high school's course offerings.

Does this submission have the full support of the department? Describe any steps taken to gain or measure the level of support.

Yes, this course has the full support of the department. The course has been developed collaboratively by school and district leadership, including the Director of Health Services, the Director of Secondary Education, and the Principal of Branford High School. Extensive planning and alignment with state standards reflect departmental and administrative backing.

## **RATIONALE**

How does this course contribute to the department's goals and align with the department's standards?

This course strengthens the Science and STEM department's goal of providing career-focused, real-world learning opportunities. It aligns with Next Generation Science Standards through its emphasis on human biology, health sciences, and applied skills, while also meeting state standards for CNA training as outlined by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

What is the need this course addresses?

The CNA course addresses both a local and national shortage of certified nursing assistants due to an aging population and rising chronic illness rates. It also meets student demand for career-oriented pathways in health sciences, offering opportunities for employment and early college/career exposure.

In what ways will deep learning occur throughout the course? *(See the definition of deep learning at the top of the document.)*

Deep learning is embedded through:

Feedback: Ongoing performance evaluations, skill checklists, and instructor mentorship during both clinical and classroom experiences.

Content: Students engage with high-quality healthcare curriculum, simulations, and hands-on lab work to move from knowledge to applied practice.

Context: The program fosters motivation through real-world relevance and clear expectations, while building students' confidence in their roles.

Community: Students collaborate in a professional healthcare setting, interacting with mentors, peers, and patients, cultivating empathy, communication, and teamwork.

How does this course support the Global Learning Competencies? You may refer to the existing or newly revised GLCs (see page 4).

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course directly supports Branford Public Schools' Global Learning Competencies by cultivating the skills, attributes, and mindsets necessary for students to thrive in a complex, evolving world. Through rigorous academic content, hands-on clinical experiences, and professional collaboration, students grow into well-rounded individuals prepared for postsecondary success. The course fosters critical thinking and responsible decision-making as students assess patient needs and provide care under supervision. It promotes effective communication and collaboration, both with peers and healthcare professionals, preparing students to navigate real-world interpersonal dynamics. The program also builds resilience and adaptability, challenging students to meet high expectations in both academic and clinical settings. In doing so, it reflects the district's commitment to continuous innovation and ensures students are equipped not only with technical skills, but also with the civic responsibility, empathy, and self-direction needed to succeed beyond high school in a rapidly changing global environment.

## **BUDGET AND FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Staffing Requirements:**

Will this create an additional staffing need within the department?

No, staffing will be supplied by our partnership with Excel Academy.

### **Budget Requirements:**

Equipment, materials, textbooks? Please distinguish between a one time only and a yearly expense.

Excel Academy fees per student are the following:

Registration: \$300

Textbooks and Uniform: \$100

Tuition: \$1,100 (This includes instructor, organizing and monitoring of student clinical hours, equipment to furnish a clinical space and required for students to learn standard practices expected for a CNA)

Total: \$1,500 per student

The cost is \$138 for the Prometric Exam, which is taken at the end of the course.

The total cost of this program is \$16,380 for 10 students.

### Facility Requirements:

Additional FTE required	0
Minimum number of students required to run the class	8
Anticipated/estimated enrollment for year one	10

Is there classroom availability within the department for this class? If not, how will this class be accommodated within the school?

Yes, there is availability within the department for this class.

Are there physical needs or limitations for this course? (water, power, room size, etc.)

Yes, there are physical needs for this course to ensure that students receive proper training. This course requires two classrooms. One will be used for regular instruction, such as lessons and discussions. The other will be a skills lab, with four hospital beds so students can practice hands-on care. This space will need a dedicated bathroom and at least one sink to support training in hygiene and patient care routines.

### State of Connecticut CNA Required Learning Plan:

#### Program Structure

- Total Instructional Hours: 100+ hours (classroom and clinical)
- Delivery: Blended instruction, combining classroom learning, hands-on practice, and supervised clinical experience

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#### Curriculum Overview

Module I: Initial Classroom Training (16 Hours) Focus: Preparation before any direct contact with residents

- Communication skills (verbal, non-verbal, assistive devices)
- Infection control and universal precautions
- Emergency procedures and resident safety

- Supporting independence in daily activities
- Understanding and respecting residents' rights

Module II: Basic Nursing Skills (8 Classroom + 20 Clinical Hours) Focus: Essential medical and care tasks

- Taking and documenting vital signs
- Measuring height and weight
- Creating a clean, safe resident environment
- Providing end-of-life care and recognizing health changes

Module III: Personal Care Skills (9 Classroom + 26 Clinical Hours) Focus: Direct care and hygiene

- Bathing, grooming, and dressing
- Toileting, catheter care, and incontinence care
- Feeding, hydration, and skin care
- Safe lifting, positioning, and use of assistive devices

Module IV: Mental Health and Social Services (6 Classroom + 4 Clinical Hours) Focus: Understanding and responding to resident behavior

- Recognizing mental health symptoms
- Encouraging independence and dignity
- Engaging family members and caregivers

Module V: Care for Cognitively Impaired Residents (11 Classroom + 11 Clinical Hours) Focus: Dementia and Alzheimer's care

- Managing behaviors and communication
- Redirection, routine building, and therapeutic activities
- Caregiver support and self-awareness

Module VI: Basic Restorative Services (2 Classroom + 8 Clinical Hours) Focus: Promoting recovery and independence

- Range of motion (ROM) exercises
- Use of prosthetics and orthotics
- Bladder and bowel training
- Safe transfer and mobility techniques

Module VII: Resident Rights (2 Classroom + 2 Clinical Hours) Focus: Ethics, advocacy, and respect

- Privacy, confidentiality, and personal choice
- Handling grievances and preventing abuse
- Safe alternatives to restraint use

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## Facilities and Staffing Requirements

- Two Dedicated Classrooms: One for lecture and one outfitted with hospital beds and a sink for skills practice
- Clinical Equipment: Hospital beds, wheelchairs, hygiene supplies, PPE, assistive devices
- Certified Instructor: A Registered Nurse with the appropriate DPH and teaching credentials

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### Certification Readiness

- Students will be eligible to sit for the Connecticut CNA Certification Exam upon successful completion
  - Certification enables immediate employment in long-term care, hospitals, and home care settings
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### Program Goals and Alignment

- Meets Branford Public Schools' Global Learning Competencies
- Provides students with critical thinking, collaboration, empathy, and career readiness
- Strengthens Branford High School's Career pathway offerings

### **Branford Public Schools Global Learning Competencies**

GLCs were updated as part of the 2023 Strategic Coherence Plan. The revised GLCs are listed here for reference, though more work is needed before putting them into practice.

