

CTE Program Proposal: Music Instrument Repair

Program Overview

Program Name: Music Instrument Repair

Proposed Career Cluster: Arts, A/V Technology & Communications (or Manufacturing if required)

Grade Levels: 9–12 or 11–12 (flexible based on school scheduling needs)

Sequence:

1. Introduction to Music Instrument Repair
2. Intermediate Music Instrument Repair: Technique and Precision
3. Advanced Music Instrument Repair: Mastery and Specialization
4. Apprenticeship Capstone: Professional Practice

Credit Type: CTE/Arts Elective

Instructor Endorsement: Business & Industry (Music Instrument Repair), or qualified Music Educator with B&I certification

Rationale for Inclusion in Nevada CTE Pathways

High-Skill

Instrument repair requires:

- Advanced manual dexterity
- Precision tool use
- Knowledge of acoustics, mechanical systems, and materials (brass, wood, felt, cork, pads, etc.)
- Competency in diagnostic reasoning and complex assembly/disassembly tasks

These skills take years to master and are transferrable to other precision-based trades (jewelry, watch repair, lutherie, etc.).

Students will learn:

- Soldering, dent removal, precision spring alignment
- Pad/cork/felt replacement and fine regulation
- Tone hole leveling and valve alignment
- Custom modifications and acoustic balancing
- Customer service and entrepreneurial shop management

High-Wage

While apprentice techs start at modest wages (~\$17–22/hour), experienced instrument repair technicians typically earn:

- \$30–\$65/hour depending on specialization and region
- Annual salary range: \$45,000–\$90,000+ for seasoned professionals, with even higher earnings for mobile techs, shop owners, or those servicing orchestras, touring bands, or school districts

This trade offers exceptional long-term income potential with minimal postsecondary training—and opens the door to paid student apprenticeships during or after the capstone year.

In-Demand Occupation in Nevada and Beyond

- All school bands, orchestras, and music programs require ongoing instrument servicing
- Many Nevada districts, including Clark and Washoe, currently ship instruments out of state due to lack of local qualified techs
- Shops like Las Vegas Horn Works, Sam Ash, and family-run repair businesses are constantly seeking skilled apprentices
- Instrument repair is a national need — music education is growing post-COVID, yet trained repair professionals are aging out without replacements
- Music retailers increasingly need in-house techs for customer service and warranty work

Occupation Code Alignment:

- SOC Code 49-9069: Precision Instrument and Equipment Repairers, All Other
- ONET: Musical Instrument Repairers and Tuners (49-9063.00)