



CTE TODAY!



What is Career and Technical Education?

- Includes 92% of high school students taking part in CTE and 38% concentrating in a CTE program¹, as well as 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields²
- Is delivered flexibly through high schools, area career centers, career academies, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more
- Educates students for a range of career options through 16 Career Clusters[®] and 79+ pathways
- Offers clear pathways to industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees
- Partners with businesses to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, in-demand areas
- Prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand careers in established and emerging industries.

CTE Works for High School Students

High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, graduate at higher rates and typically go on to postsecondary education.

- Participating in CTE is associated with a lower chance of dropping out and a higher chance of graduating on time.³
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 94%⁴, compared to an overall graduation rate of 85%.⁵
- High school graduates who earn CTE credits are about as likely to enroll in postsecondary education as the overall student population.⁶

CTE Works for College Students and Adults

Postsecondary CTE prepares students and adults for in-demand careers, and allows them to take on less debt.

- Students can attend public community and technical colleges for a fraction of the cost of tuition at other institutions: \$3,770, on average, in 2020-2021.⁷
- For workers with associate degrees, the percentage of "good jobs"—jobs that pay a median annual income of \$55,000 or higher without a bachelor's degree—grew by 83% between 1991 and 2016.⁸
- Individuals with associate degrees in CTE fields of study can earn \$10,000 more per year than those with associate degrees in other fields.⁹

CTE Works for Business

CTE addresses the needs of industries and helps close the skills gap.

- More than half of the nation's fastest-growing occupations require education below a bachelor's degree¹⁰, as do half of all STEM jobs.¹¹
- Health care occupations are projected to grow 15% by 2029, adding more than 2 million new jobs.¹²
- Many of the almost 17.2 million workers employed in infrastructure jobs are nearing retirement.¹³
- 89% of manufacturers face talent shortages, with 60% reporting a high or very high impact on productivity.¹⁴

CTE Works for the Economy

Investing in CTE yields big returns for state economies.

- In Wisconsin, taxpayers receive \$12.20 in benefits for every dollar invested in the technical college system.¹⁵
- Oklahoma's economy reaps a net benefit of \$3.5 billion annually from graduates of the CareerTech System.¹⁶
- Colorado Community College System alumni in the workforce contribute \$5.1 billion annually to the state economy.¹⁷

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Endnotes

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