



Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy that expands options for learners, empowers them to choose a meaningful and sustainable career, and prepares them with real-world skills for success in college and careers. Through hands-on learning, engagement with industry experts and rigorous academic and career-focused coursework, CTE is learning that works for Kentucky’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Kentucky

CTE Enrollment¹

138,200

High School

44,575

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

88%

Kentucky Average²

98%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Kentucky⁴

80%

high school CTE graduates enrolling in college, enlisting in the military or working within six months

87%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

74%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

79%

postsecondary CTE graduates placed in careers or further training within six months

- Fun fact: Kentucky's TRACK pre-apprenticeship program allows high school students to earn industry-recognized credentials, receive academic credit and transition into a full-time apprenticeship.⁵
- Fun fact: CTE high school students in Kentucky earned a total of 12,070 industry certifications in 2015-16.⁶

CTE Works for Kentucky’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 58 percent of Kentucky’s labor market.
- However, only 48 percent of workers in Kentucky are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁸ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 35,690 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Kentucky in 2015 – about 50 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁹



In Kentucky, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.⁷

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp

³ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/Performance>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ <https://careertech.org/resource/Kentucky-TRACK>

⁶ <https://education.ky.gov/CTE/Documents/Data%20Profile.pdf>

⁷ Based on Advance CTE's analysis of fastest-growing occupations by state. This represents occupations with high annual projected job openings that requires an associate's degree and provide an average wage of at least \$34,760. Retrieved from https://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1

⁸ National Skills Coalition. (2017). *State Middle Skills Fact Sheets*. <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/state-policy/states>

⁹ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Advance CTE's analysis of completions component. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>