



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 Virginia’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Virginia

CTE Enrollment¹

293,788

High School

103,827

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

86%

Virginia Average²

97%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Virginia⁴

96%

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

65%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

39%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

72%

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

- Fun fact: Virginia requires all students earning a standard high school diploma to also earn an industry-recognized credential.⁵ In the 2013-14 school year, Virginia high school students earned a total of 103,599 credentials – 3.5 times higher than the number earned just four years before.⁶

CTE Works for Virginia’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 49 percent of Virginia’s labor market.
- However, only 39 percent of workers in Virginia are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁸ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 45,840 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Virginia in 2015 – about 34 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁹



In Virginia, 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://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE-StateGradRequirementsFINAL.pdf>

⁶ http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/career_technical/statistics_reports/performance_trends/credential_performance_trends_2015.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/>