Career and Technical Education Improves Student Achievement in High School, College and Career

Parents play an important role in their children’s college and career success.

**Academic and College Success**
- 80% of high school students taking both CTE and college prep courses meet college and career readiness goals, versus 63% who are college and career ready through college prep courses alone.
- 600,000 high school students enroll in dual-credit CTE courses to earn college credit.

**Career Planning**
- 6 out of 10 students plan to pursue a career related to the CTE area they’re exploring in high school.
- Students enrolled in CTE courses are significantly more likely to develop problem-solving, project completion, research, communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school.

**Employment and Earnings**
- 36% of STEM jobs require postsecondary credentials that CTE students can obtain within two years of high school graduation.
- $11,000: Graduates with technical or applied science associate degrees can out-earn bachelor’s degree holders by $11,000.

**School and Job Satisfaction**
- 81% of high school dropouts say relevant, real-world learning opportunities, like CTE, would have kept them in school.
- Graduates are twice as likely to be engaged at work if they had a meaningful internship or job while in college.

My career tech class has enabled me to do something I love and opened my eyes to possibilities that are ahead. – Kelsey McClure

I’m forever grateful to career tech. I have learned how to manage time and money, be more responsible and support myself while being reliable to other people. – Zachary Zigler

1 Southern Regional Education Board, 2 Thomas et al. 2013, National Center for Education Statistics, 3 NRCCUA® and ACTE 2016, 4 Lekes et al. 2007, National Research Center for CTE, 5 Rothwell 2013, Brookings Institution, 6 Schneider 2013, College Measures, 7 Bridgeland et al. 2006, Civic Enterprises, 8 Gallup-Purdue Index report, 9 Ohio Department of Education Career-Technical Education Success Stories, 10 Ibid.
The Texas economy is experiencing a skills gap...

54% of jobs in Texas require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.

45% of Texas workers are trained at this level.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can fill these gaps, particularly in Texas's key industries, like:

- advanced manufacturing
- aerospace, aviation and defense
- energy
- information technology

In 2022, almost 94,000 Texas high school CTE concentrators graduated with an industry-based certification, postsecondary certificate, or associate or bachelor's degree.

Many students are already enrolled in CTE in Texas, developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in work-based experiences with industry partners. During the 2021-22 school year, Texas had:

1,792,279 secondary CTE participants

177,934 postsecondary CTE participants

These youth and adult learners in CTE programs are more engaged, graduate high school at higher rates, earn industry-recognized credentials, and have rewarding and family-sustaining careers.

112,191 postsecondary credentials earned by CTE students in Texas (2021-22)

More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across Texas to ensure that all learners, including historically underserved learners, have access to high-quality CTE programs in high-skill, high-wage and in-demand career fields.

CTE: Good for Students, Good for Business, Good for Communities!

FY 23 Federal Perkins CTE Funding for Texas

$127,681,305