



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 Arkansas' students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Arkansas

CTE Enrollment¹

175,993

High School

26,712

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

85%

Arkansas Average²

97%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Arkansas⁴

95%

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

80%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

66%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

71%

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

- Fun fact: A 2016 evaluation found that CTE Concentrators in Arkansas are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in a two-year college, be employed after high school and earn more per quarter in the year after high school than their peers.⁵
- Fun fact: The Arkansas College and Career Coach program, launched in 2010, provides one-on-one career guidance and career exploration resources to approximately 27,000 students every year.⁶

CTE Works for Arkansas' Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor's degree – account for 58 percent of Arkansas's labor market.
- However, only 48 percent of workers in Arkansas are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁸ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 22,358 associate's degrees or certificates were awarded in Arkansas in 2015 – about 50 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁹



In Arkansas, 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/cte-does-improve-student-outcomes>

⁶ <https://careertech.org/resource/arkansas-college-and-career-coaches>

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/>