



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 South Carolina’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in South Carolina

CTE Enrollment¹

187,219

High School

39,711

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

80%

South Carolina
Average²

98%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in South Carolina⁴

97%

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

78%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

54%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

84%

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

- Fun fact: South Carolina students are required to declare a "major" in one of 16 Career Clusters and receive career guidance as early as elementary school. Since this policy was adopted in 2005, South Carolina schools have seen an increase in the amount and variety of career planning activities.⁵

CTE Works for South Carolina’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 57 percent of South Carolina’s labor market.
- However, only 46 percent of workers in South Carolina are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁷ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 22,607 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in South Carolina in 2015 – about 40 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁸



In South Carolina, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.⁶

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/South-Carolina-EEDA>

⁶ 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

⁷ National Skills Coalition. (2017). *State Middle Skills Fact Sheets*. <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/state-policy/states>

⁸ 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/>