



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 Tennessee’s students – and its economy.

## CTE Works for Learners in Tennessee

### CTE Enrollment<sup>1</sup>

**186,136**

High School

**34,954**

Postsecondary

### High School Graduation

**88%**

Tennessee Average<sup>2</sup>

**98%**

CTE Concentrators<sup>3</sup>

## Outcomes for Learners in Tennessee<sup>4</sup>

**95%**

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

**70%**

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

**52%**

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

**89%**

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

- Fun fact: Tennessee offers tuition-free community college to all adults and students through the Tennessee Promise program. Since the program's launch in 2014, the state has seen record increases in college enrollment and led the nation in FAFSA applications three years in a row.<sup>5</sup>

## CTE Works for Tennessee’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 58 percent of Tennessee’s labor market.
- However, only 45 percent of workers in Tennessee are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,<sup>7</sup> leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 31,028 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Tennessee in 2015 – about 38 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.<sup>8</sup>



In Tennessee, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.<sup>6</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.  
[https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2014-15.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp)

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

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> <https://careertech.org/resource/Tennessee-Promise>

<sup>6</sup> 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](https://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1)

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

<sup>8</sup> 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/>