



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 Washington’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Washington

CTE Enrollment¹

313,317

High School

165,554

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

78%

Washington Average²

88%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Washington⁴

74%

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

63%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

100%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

59%

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

- Fun fact: Washington State, in partnership with the Boeing Company and the Manufacturing Industrial Council, developed a two-year curriculum called Core Plus that helps students graduate with skills in the manufacturing and skilled trades. The program is active in 11 skill centers and 26 comprehensive high schools with plans to expand.⁵

CTE Works for Washington’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 51 percent of Washington’s labor market.
- However, only 44 percent of workers in Washington are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁷ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 59,343 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Washington in 2015 – about 56 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁸



In Washington, 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/washington-core-plus>

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/>