



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 West Virginia’s students – and its economy.

## CTE Works for Learners in West Virginia

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

**65,808**

High School

**20,633**

Postsecondary

### High School Graduation

**87%**

West Virginia Average<sup>2</sup>

**99%**

CTE Concentrators<sup>3</sup>

## Outcomes for Learners in West Virginia<sup>4</sup>

**91%**

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

**57%**

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

**62%**

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

**78%**

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

- Fun fact: Through West Virginia's Simulated Workplace program, students transform their classroom into an authentic work environment, getting mentorship and support from industry professionals. Since it was launched in 2013, the program has grown to more than 500 classrooms, allowing students in rural communities to experience work-based learning without leaving the classroom.<sup>5</sup>

## CTE Works for West Virginia’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 57 percent of West Virginia’s labor market.
- However, only 49 percent of workers in West Virginia are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,<sup>7</sup> leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 10,529 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in West Virginia in 2015 – about 30 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.<sup>8</sup>



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

---

<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/west-virginia-simulated-workplace>

<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/>