

## **PURPOSE**

Delaware has a rich history in developing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study through the state's vocational school districts and community college system. Building upon these efforts, the state is currently engaged in the development of a career pathways system for youth and adults that strengthens the relationship between educators and the employer community and serves the needs of all learners. This system acknowledges that the path to continuing education and a career is not the same for all youth.

Career pathways begin in the public education system (K-12) through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered in charter, comprehensive, and technical school districts. These pathways continue through adult education, occupational training programs, and postsecondary programs that are administered by partnering state agencies, institutions of higher education, and other service providers. Students who complete a CTE program attain a secondary school diploma, earn an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or license that holds value in the labor market, and have the opportunity to enter the workforce or pursue an apprenticeship, certificate, Associate, or Bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education in Delaware.

## **BACKGROUND**

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is delivered through a series of programs of study that prepare youth for a specific occupation or a career within an occupational group. Programs of study are offered through a non-duplicative sequence of courses that span secondary (middle and high school) and postsecondary education. At the high school level, CTE programs are offered across 3 technical school districts (6 high schools), 16 comprehensive school districts (26 high schools), 8 charter high schools, and 2 institutions that serve at-risk youth. At the postsecondary level, CTE programs are offered at Delaware Technical Community College (4 campuses) and Registered Apprenticeship and Trade Extension programs (3 technical school districts and the Delaware Skills Center).

- Technical school districts represent three (3) county-wide school districts that provide CTE education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Each school district is governed by an appointed school board. Technical school districts serve youth in grades 9 through 12 and adult learners through programs focused on credential attainment, trade extension, and Registered Apprenticeship. Secondary programs are typically six (6) to ten (10) credits in duration and culminate in an industry certification, advanced credit, and an internship or paid co-operative education placement with a partnering employer(s). Postsecondary programs are designed to upskill adult learners and involve both classroom based instruction and on-the-job training. Regional and state labor markets are reflected in both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs.
- Comprehensive school districts represent 16 geographic school districts serving students from pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each school district is governed by an elected school board. CTE programs offered in comprehensive school districts span middle and high school. Middle school

programs are typically designed to help youth identify their career interests and develop skills necessary for high school readiness. High school programs are typically three (3) to four (4) credits in duration and culminate in an industry certification, advanced credit, and work-based learning program with a partnering employer(s). Business and industry partnerships typically reflect those within the community that the district serves.

- Charter schools are independent, tuition-free public schools, serving students from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The "charter" establishing each school is a contract, which states the school's mission, program, and measurable goals. Charter schools may be authorized by the State Department of Education or a local school district. CTE programs offered in charter schools may include middle school programs and high school programs based on the grade level configuration of the school. High school programs are typically three (3) to four (4) credits in duration and culminate in an industry certification, advanced credit, and work-based learning program with a partnering employer(s). Business and industry partnerships typically reflect the school charter.
- Delaware Technical Community College (Delaware Tech) is the statewide community college system which includes four (4) regional campuses located in Wilmington, Stanton, Dover, and Georgetown. Delaware Tech is governed by an appointed Board of Directors and serves both youth and adult learners. Youth are served through early college and career programs, remediation programs, and community-based programs. Adults are served through credential and degree programs, community-based programs, and customized workforce training programs with employers. CTE programs at Delaware Tech include Pell eligible credential programs and two-year degree programs. Regional and state labor markets are reflected in postsecondary CTE programs.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY DEFINITIONS**

As youth and adults matriculate through a CTE program of study at the secondary or postsecondary levels, terminology is applied to the student's enrollment status for the purposes of accountability.

At the secondary level a:

- *Participant* is any student who has completed one CTE course;
- *Concentrator* is any student who has completed more than 50% of the courses required to complete the program; and
- *Completer* is any student who has completed all courses required to complete the program.

At the postsecondary level a:

- *Participant* is any student who has earned one (1) or more credits in a CTE program area;
- *Concentrator* is any student who has completed twelve (12) credits within a single CTE program area or completes a short-term CTE program consisting of twelve (12) credits; and
- *Completer* is any student who receives an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or two-year degree.

### **QUICK FACTS**

Secondary CTE Programs (source Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), school year 2017-18)

- 74% of all youth in grades 9-12 are enrolled in a secondary CTE program of study (30,296 out of 40,884 students);
- 62% of all youth in grades 11 and 12 have completed 50% or more of the courses required to complete a secondary CTE program of study (11,644 out of 18,616 students); and
- 53% of all youth in grade 12 have completed a secondary CTE program of study (4,846 out of 9,519 students).

Postsecondary CTE Programs (source DDOE, school year 2017-18)

- 9,948 students (9,189 at Delaware Tech, 551 at NCCVT, 71 at Polytech, and 137 at Sussex Tech) are enrolled in a postsecondary CTE program of study;
- 81% of students (1,519 out of 2,012 students) earned a credential, certificate, or degree through a postsecondary CTE program of study; and
- 85% of students (1,186 out of 1,391 students) were placed into employment or continuing education six months after completing a postsecondary CTE program of study.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) (source DDOE, school year 2017-18)

- CTSOs are youth organizations designed to support CTE programs of study and provide students with an opportunity to develop leadership, academic, and technical skills through competitive events at the state and national level;
- Delaware supports the following CTSOs: BPA, DECA, Educators Rising, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, TSA, and SkillsUSA; and
- More than 12,000 students at the middle and high school levels are actively participating in state competitions and local leadership/community-service activities.

**FISCAL ALLOCATION AND BUDGET** (source Delaware Department of Education, state fiscal year 2019)

Total Perkins Allocation to the State	<b>\$5,114,664</b>
Local Formula (not less than 85% of total allocation)	\$4,353,198
Reserve Fund (not more than 10% of local formula)	\$434,747
Secondary Pass-through (85% of local formula less the Reserve Fund)	\$3,330,683
Postsecondary Pass-through (15% of local formula less the Reserve Fund)	\$587,768
State Leadership (not more than 10% of total allocation)	\$511,466
Corrections & Institutions (not more than 1% of total allocation)	\$20,000
Non-Traditional Employment (not less than \$60,000 or more than \$150,000)	\$60,000
Other State Leadership	\$431,466
State Administration (not more than 5% of total allocation or \$250,000)	\$250,000