



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 North Carolina's students – and its economy.

## CTE Works for Learners in North Carolina

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

**883,890**

High School

**121,745**

Postsecondary

### High School Graduation

**86%**

North Carolina  
Average<sup>2</sup>

**98%**

CTE Concentrators<sup>3</sup>

### Outcomes for Learners in North Carolina<sup>4</sup>

**93%**

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

**83%**

postsecondary CTE students  
staying enrolled and/or  
transferring

**59%**

postsecondary CTE students  
earning a credential, certificate or  
degree

**69%**

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

- Fun fact: Apprenticeship 2000, an employer-led training program based in North Carolina, utilizes a clear compensation structure that supports participants' progression through and completion of both secondary and postsecondary programs of study. An unusual feature — and clear strength — of the Apprenticeship 2000 compensation structure is that it incentivizes both academic achievement and skills development.<sup>5</sup>

## CTE Works for North Carolina's Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor's degree – account for 55 percent of North Carolina's labor market.
- However, only 44 percent of workers in North Carolina are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,<sup>7</sup> leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 62,732 associate's degrees or certificates were awarded in North Carolina in 2015 – about 45 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.<sup>8</sup>



In North Carolina, 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> <http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/publications/materials/WBL%20Principles%20Paper%20062416.pdf>

<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/>