

### Career and Technical Education in Arizona

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, charter schools or through the 14 Joint Technical Education Districts (JTEDs), which include over 215 high school sites. JTEDs are formed when two or more school districts, with the approval of local voters and the state Department of Education, come together to form a new district that can deliver a higher level of career and technical education to students it serves than the individual districts could provide on their own.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through 10 community college districts. Each community college district is fully autonomous with its own governing board and is funded individually by the state and with Perkins funds.
- Learn more at [www.azed.gov/career-technical-education](http://www.azed.gov/career-technical-education) and [ACTEAZ.org](http://ACTEAZ.org).

In school year 2016-2017, Arizona served **105,985** CTE high school students and **111,701** CTE postsecondary students.

In Fiscal Year 2019, Arizona received an estimated **\$30,285,548** in federal Perkins funding—almost \$1.7 million more than in 2018.

### Exemplary CTE Programs in Arizona

- The [Mesa Public Schools'](#) Biotechnology Program at [Red Mountain High School](#) has had three recent U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education nominees. The program taught by teacher, Katy Gazda, is held in a research science lab that focuses on areas such as biochemistry, DNA structure, gene expression, protein synthesis and recombinant DNA strategies, as well as forensics and bioethics. Students also become proficient in advanced laboratory research techniques that are aligned to industry standards. In the capstone class, students work with local scientists to develop research topics, conduct experiments and present their results to other scientists. This year's Presidential nominees, Geethika Ameneni and Adrian Kwiatkowski, have been researching topics such as the evolutionary perspectives of cancer development and ALS treatments, and studying RNA interphase and the pluripotency of cells. Geethika is Flinn Scholar finalist, and Adrian is a QuestBridge Scholar and received a full scholarship to the University of Chicago. Both students are members of HOSA and have placed in the top five in state competitions. These accomplishments can be attributed, in part, to the real-world opportunities Ms. Gazda has provided her Biotechnology students. Her goal is to ensure all of her students have the skills and dispositions to seamlessly transition into science professions. The research her students conduct is unprecedented. *(Information from Mesa Public Schools)*
- [Franklin Police & Fire High School](#) is a specialty small school within the Phoenix Union High School District that prepares students for successful careers in Law Enforcement and Fire Services. Franklin was one of four Arizona schools named as a National Blue Ribbon School, earning a silver medal, as well as being a Gold Medal "Beat the Odds" school. In addition to the Fire and Law courses, students take courses in Forensic Science, Spanish for Public Safety and Applied Statistics to prepare them for the field. The school has a rigorous physical and academic curriculum and deep-rooted values that promote the development of strong character and ethics within its students. Law Enforcement students earn certifications in Security Guard (Arizona Department of Public Safety), CPR, First Aid and 911 Dispatch. Firefighting students earn certifications in Wild Land Firefighter, CPR and First Aid. *(Information from ACTEAZ)*

In school year 2016-2017:

- **98** percent of Arizona CTE high school students graduated
- **83** percent met performance goals for technical skills
- **91** percent of Arizona CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills