Career and Technical Education in Iowa

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, some of which partner with local community colleges.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through area community colleges, with each school serving a multi-county area that may vary in size from four to 12 counties.

Exemplary CTE Programs in Iowa

- Iowa Central Community College’s North Central Career Academy is a collaboration of six high schools to provide high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take dual-credit courses in a specific career path. The Career Academy is located in Eagle Grove, which is a central location for the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Saint Edmond’s Catholic and Webster City high schools. Students choose a career path to explore classes that are frequently not offered in these rural high schools due to funding and lack of student numbers. By collaborating with Iowa Central through its Career Academy, the high schools can offer students classes in Business, Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Teacher Academy and Manufacturing, including Welding Technology and Machinist/Computer Integrated Fabrication. Students earn up to 19 college credits, without cost for tuition, textbooks, materials or other miscellaneous fees, as well as a $500 scholarship to Iowa Central. Another important benefit for students is the interaction with business and industry professionals in the region through speakers, tours and an all Career Academy Job Shadow Day in which a student can earn an additional $250 scholarship. Students have an opportunity to earn credentials in First Aid, CPR and AED, as well as the National Career Readiness Certificate, Certified Nursing Assistant and OSHA. (Information from Iowa ACTE)

- Students in the Precision Agriculture Career Academy at the Keokuk County Career Academy are earning college credit and gaining invaluable industry experience in a high-demand field. Keokuk County Career Academy is a regional center for junior and senior high school students from four small rural school districts—Sigourney, Keota, Pekin and Tri County. Students in the precision agriculture program are learning about topics such as crop yields, hybrids and drought tolerance, with an emphasis on modern technologies such as soil sampling, aerial imaging, and external space-based or ground-based sensors. In addition to precision agriculture, Keokuk County Career Academy offers pathways in welding, machine technology and health science. Keokuk County Career Academy was developed as a collaboration among the district, Indian Hills Community College and local business representatives to expand specialized offerings to address the local skills gap. Industry partners for the precision agriculture program include John Deere, Case, Kinze, Vermeer and Vision Ag. Students are required to participate in an internship during their senior year, which, for many, has turned into a job offer. (Information from the Iowa Department of Education)

| In school year 2016-2017, Iowa served 96,024 CTE high school students and 11,211 CTE postsecondary students. | In Fiscal Year 2019, Iowa received an estimated $12,657,415 in federal Perkins funding—the first increase since 2010, before Tech Prep was defunded, when the state received $13.2 million. |

In school year 2016-2017:
- 98 percent of Iowa CTE high school students graduated
- 85 percent met performance goals for mathematics
- 86 percent met performance goals for reading/language arts
- 93 percent met performance goals for technical skills
- 93 percent of Iowa CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills

Data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education.