Career and Technical Education in Tennessee

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools and CTE high schools, which provide full integration of core academic curriculum with career-specific training.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state’s Colleges of Applied Technology, which provide 2-year and certificate-level occupational and technical training programs, and community colleges.

Exemplary CTE Programs in Tennessee

- The Nashville Academies enable students to learn through the lens of a career or academic theme in a highly personalized learning community. The Academies of Nashville fall within five broad career groupings: arts, media and communications; business, marketing and information technology; engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology; health and public services; and hospitality and tourism. Students are exposed to a multitude of careers and opportunities, industry skills and potential employers by way of classroom speakers, site visits, job shadowing and internships. Through donations of time, energy and/or resources, local companies and organizations can have a significant and measurable impact on the lives of students. For instance, CMT has made a significant investment of time, talent and in-kind donations to the Academy of Digital Design and Communication. Former President Barack Obama visited McGavock High School, where the CMT Academy is located, in 2014. (Information from the Academies of Nashville)
- Since the 2015-2016 school year, students are benefiting from Tennessee Promise, a last-dollar scholarship program that inspired former President Obama to propose a similar nationwide program in early 2015. The Tennessee program grants students free tuition to attend any of the state’s 13 community colleges, 27 Colleges of Applied Technology or other eligible institutions. Student recipients are also provided a mentor. The scholarship aims to help the state reach the governor’s goal that 55 percent of Tennesseans will obtain a postsecondary credential by 2025. (Information from “State Policies Impacting CTE: 2014 Year in Review”)

In school year 2016-2017:
- 98 percent of Tennessee CTE high school students graduated
- 97 percent met performance goals for technical skills
- 92 percent of Tennessee CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills
- 70 percent of Tennessee CTE adult students earned a credential, certificate or degree

In Fiscal Year 2019, Tennessee received an estimated $26,918,925 in federal Perkins funding—almost $1.5 million more than in 2018.

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