

Career and Technical Education in Utah

In Utah, Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value. Through competency-based instruction and hands-on technical skills training, students obtain the academic knowledge and certified occupational skills to be successful in postsecondary education, training, and the evolving workforce of the 21st century.

At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through 166 public middle/jr. high schools and 154 public high schools, including charter schools. At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through seven Utah System of Higher Education institutions and eight Utah System of Technical Colleges campuses, throughout the state's eight regions.

Utah received an estimated **\$15,083,217** in federal Perkins funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, about \$833,000 more than in 2018. Of funds distributed to local recipients, 60 percent are allocated for secondary programs and 40 percent for postsecondary programs.

The Utah State Board of Education recently formed a Computer Science Task Force to establish a vision for computer science in the Utah Public Education System. The Task Force identified a strategic plan, including six recommendations, to successfully implement computer science education within the K-12 education system. The **Computer Science K-12 Framework** represents a vision in which all students engage in the concepts and practices of computer science and can be viewed at <https://www.schools.utah.gov/cte?mid=3363&tid=5>.

To “Concentrate in a CTE Pathway” is one of the four **career readiness coursework indicators** in the state accountability report. Readiness coursework is intended to be an indicator of equitable opportunity for students to access advanced college and career courses in high school. Learn more with the [Utah Accountability Technical Manual 2017-2018](#), page 24.

Bear River Region was awarded the 2018 Utah Excellence in Action award for their **AM STEM** (Automated Manufacturing STEM) program and its uniquely inventive and effective approaches to stimulating student learning, offering extensive work-based

In school year 2017-2018, Utah served **161,596** CTE high school students. In addition, there were **12,237,945** CTE membership hours taken in the Utah System of Higher Education and **5,812** CTE certificates and associate degrees awarded.

learning experiences, maintaining strong partnerships with industry and community organizations, and preparing students for postsecondary and career success. The Bear River Region AM STEM program, in partnership with Bridgerland Technical College (BTech), is a cooperative effort involving industry, higher education and secondary education. Students involved in the program take courses at their high school that align with the requirements found in industry. The AM STEM program represents the best CTE program in the state of Utah.

On the postsecondary level, the national magazine *Washington Monthly* has ranked **Weber State University** and **Utah Valley University** as the top two colleges in the nation as “Best Colleges for Adult Learners: 2 Year Colleges,” and **Salt Lake Community College** in the list of “Twelve Most Innovative Colleges for Adult Learners.” The rankings recognize institutions that have adapted to better serve adults who are 25 and older, which is about 40 percent of college enrollment on average around the country. Each institution on the list, the magazine points out, is “doing something right that other schools ought to emulate.”

Learn more at UtahCTE.org.

In school year 2017-2018:

Data from the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah System of Higher Education

- The graduation rate for secondary students who are CTE concentrators is **95** percent, compared to the state graduation rate of 87 percent.
- Secondary students earned **79,223** CTE concurrent enrollment credits.
- **112,867** CTE Skill Certifications were awarded, along with an additional **19,189** third-party certifications.