Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Alaska

- At the secondary level, CTE programs in Alaska are delivered in comprehensive high schools along with CTE-specific schools, which are schools that teach core academics in the context of specific career pathways.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through Alaska’s four-year universities and related community campuses; rural training centers (RTCs), which provide coordinated workforce development, education and training to prepare individuals to enter into the Alaskan workforce; and one two-year tribal college.

In school year 2017-2018, 12,998 high school students and 5,568 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Alaska.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Alaska received an estimated $5,135,742 in federal Perkins funding—about $98,370 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Alaska

- A number of initiatives in the state are focused on expanding access to high-quality CTE. The ReadiSTAR program offers three, two-week-long boarding school sessions, culminating in internships, to students from smaller village sites served by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District and STAR of the Northwest magnet school. The rural Lower Yukon School District (LYSD) and the urban Anchorage School District have partnered to provide LYSD students with nine-week sessions in Anchorage. Students live in the Kulsivak Career Academy dorms and attend King Tech High School for CTE courses. Bristol Bay Region Career Technical Education is a partnership among Bristol Bay Region School District, Southwest Region School District and Lake & Penn School District to provide weeklong intensives for rural learners focused on career development, technical skills and dual enrollment through the local community campus.
- Through cross-agency collaboration and in partnership with industry, Alaska has developed a Work Based Learning Guide with forms, guidelines and best practices to help districts implement quality work-based learning programs.
- The Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) is home to the Alaska Maritime Training Center (AMTC), a United States Coast Guard approved training school. One of the few maritime training schools in the country offering Ice Navigation courses and one of the first schools offering the newly updated and approved Qualified Member of the Engine Department Junior Engineer course, the AMTC at AVTEC stays busy preparing Alaskans for work in the maritime industry.

Student Performance (2018)

- 94% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 91% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 88% of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

Labor Market Trends

- 53% of Alaska’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 49% of the state’s workers are trained at the middle-skill level.
- The top 5 industries for “good jobs” that pay a median income of $55,000+ without a bachelor’s degree are office and administrative support, construction/extraction, management, transportation/material moving and installation/maintenance/repairs.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (Perkins IV)  
Data from National Skills Coalition Middle-Skill Job Fact Sheets and the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce’s Good Jobs Project