

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Arkansas

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered in both comprehensive high schools and through secondary area career centers, which offer supplemental higher-cost programs that smaller schools are unable to afford and are sponsored by two-year colleges, education services cooperatives and high schools.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the community college system and three technical institutes.
- Learn more at <http://arcareereducation.org> and www.arkansasacte.org.

In school year 2017-2018, **141,736** high school students and **24,728** postsecondary students participated in CTE in Arkansas.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Arkansas received an estimated **\$13,246,104** in federal Perkins funding—almost \$209,951 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Arkansas

- Fort Smith Public Schools (FSPS) CTE is the central focus of a student-led, community-driven regional effort to connect students to career opportunities, resulting in Vision 2023. This five-year strategic plan addresses career planning, equity, instruction, learning environments/facilities, staffing, technology and wellness. One of the outcomes of this work is a planned career and technology center (CTC) with specialized lab spaces and classrooms for courses in advanced manufacturing, healthcare and information technology. In collaboration with the Western Arkansas Technical Center at the University of Arkansas, the CTC will provide concurrent credit and industry-recognized certifications to high school students from 21 regional schools representing 43,287 K-12 students in the Western Arkansas region. Area adults can also benefit from evening and weekend adult education and incumbent worker training opportunities. To help strengthen the pipeline to the CTC, students in grades 6-8 will take newly developed Career Exploration classes with interactive special projects, tours, guest speakers and digital content. In grades 9-10, students will have the opportunity to participate in Foundations classes in each of the pathways offered at the CTC, based on career plans, interest/aptitude assessments and counseling. Beginning in 10th grade, students will be able to begin technical concurrent credit courses at the CTC. CTC development will be funded by a local millage increase and a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the facility itself is a gift from the Estate of William L. Hutcheson. CTC is supported by the state's congressional delegation, Governor Hutchinson, the Chamber of Commerce and regional business and industry. Aligning resources with student opportunities and employer needs is key to the success of this program.

Student Performance (2018)

- **97%** of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- **75%** of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- **95%** of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- **88%** of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (Perkins IV)

Labor Market Trends

- **52%** of Arkansas's labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only **47%** of the state's workers are trained at the middle-skill level.
- The **top 5** industries for "good jobs" that pay a median annual income of \$55,000+ **without a bachelor's degree** are production, management, office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, and sales.

Data from National Skills Coalition Middle-Skill Job Fact Sheets and the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce's Good Jobs Project