

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Colorado

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, charter schools and technical centers.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE programs are offered through the Colorado Community College System, local district colleges and area technical colleges.
- Learn more at <http://coloradostateplan.com> or CACTE.org.

In school year 2018-2019, **110,265** high school students and **51,236** postsecondary students participated in CTE in Colorado.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Colorado received an estimated **\$19,173,648** in federal Perkins funding—about \$305,159 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Colorado

- **Credit for Prior Learning:** Colorado has a statewide policy outlining expectations for awarding credit for prior learning, including credit for military training, that a learner may have had prior to enrolling in a CTE program. Community colleges across the state have shared protocols for reviewing and assessing prior learning, and an increasing number of industry-recognized credentials are being added to the list of documents accepted for credit.
- **Technical Campuses:** An increasing number of school districts in Colorado have passed bonds or set aside funds to invest in and expand typically high-cost CTE programming in centrally located CTE centers that serve one or multiple school districts. For example, Cherry Creek School District opened the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus, which has a wide array of CTE offerings, including aviation maintenance, advanced manufacturing, ProStart and health sciences. Most programs include a mechanism for earning postsecondary credit. In the St. Vrain School District, the Innovation Center was designed to inspire exploration and discovery.
- **Innovation Grants:** To support implementation of the statewide CTE Strategic Plan, Colorado will award over \$1 million in competitive grant funds, through Perkins V reserve dollars, to innovative projects that align with strategic priorities, demonstrate partnership and focus on increasing access to CTE.

Student Performance (2019)

- CTE student high school graduation rate: **92%**.
- **98%** of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
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Data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (Perkins IV)

Labor Market Trends

- **50%** of Colorado's labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only **40%** 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 management, office and administrative support, construction and extraction, and installation/maintenance/repair.

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