Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Connecticut

- At the secondary level, Connecticut delivers CTE through comprehensive high schools and through the Connecticut Technical High School System, a statewide system of 17 technical high schools serving full-time high school students with comprehensive education and training as well as part-time adult students with apprenticeship and other programs. The state also has 19 Agriculture Science and Technology Education Centers.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through 12 community colleges.

In school year 2017-2018, 107,163 high school students and 68,937 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Connecticut.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Connecticut received an estimated $11,010,617 in federal Perkins funding—about $166,248 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Connecticut

- In 2019, Middletown’s Vinal Technical High School Criminal Justice and Protective Services Program, part of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), opened the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)—the first in the nation in a high school setting. The EOC provides students with hands-on career development opportunities to support federal resources deployed around the United States during rescue and recovery operations. Students can participate in internships and earn certifications and licenses through the program. The EOC has partnered with Comcast and the Eversource Foundation to provide industry expertise to students.
- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) visited Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton in 2019 to see how students are shaping their future careers with the skills they have learned while studying at Grasso. Students expressed excitement about their future plans and are anticipating how these skills will give them an advantage in future postsecondary education and the workforce through career-based learning and dual enrollment offered at the school. After Senator Murphy toured the school’s new facility and spoke with the students, he declared that skills and career-based learning is the future of Connecticut.

Student Performance (2018)

- 99% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 86% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 92% of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 78% of postsecondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.

Labor Market Trends

- 48% of Connecticut labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 38% 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 office and administrative support, management, construction and extraction, sales, and production.

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