Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Kentucky

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive middle and high schools, locally-operated career and technology centers and state-operated area technology centers. These settings provide students the opportunity to enhance and expand their options for both college and a career.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is offered through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), as well as several colleges and universities.

In school year 2018-2019, 137,197 high school students and 44,231 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Kentucky.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Kentucky received an estimated $19,665,870 in federal Perkins funding—about $304,914 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Kentucky

- **New Teacher Institute**: As a top priority of its New Skills for Youth (NSFY) strategic plan, Kentucky revamped its CTE occupation-based teacher certification program by doubling the length of teacher induction time (12 months to 24 months), embedding a new teacher mentor component and revising certification regulations that lead to CTE licensure within the state. Teacher retention rates under the new model have gone from approximately 63% to 94%.
- **Dual Credit Scholarships**: Two dual-credit scholarships provide financial assistance to secondary students for CTE postsecondary coursework, capping the tuition rate at 1/3 of KCTCS hourly tuition rates. The Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship provides funding for two general education and/or CTE courses, while the Work Ready Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship provides funding for up to two CTE courses per year in an approved career pathway.
- **Career Academy Implementation**: Kentucky leveraged its NSFY participation to provide regional planning grants for designing all-day, accelerated career academies aligned to the state’s most in-demand careers. The academies are jointly governed by multiple K-12 school districts, postsecondary partners and business/industry leaders within the respective regions. The KDE is also supporting the state’s two largest school districts (Jefferson and Fayette Counties) with strategic initiatives aimed at transforming traditional high schools into wall-to-wall career academies.
- **Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK)**: Recognized as one of the leading youth apprenticeship models in the country, TRACK provides secondary students with career pathway opportunities into Registered Apprenticeship programs. An employer-driven program, TRACK has been scaled in a variety of workforce sectors, including healthcare, information technology, social work and early childhood education.

Student Performance (2019)

- **99%** of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- **74%** of secondary CTE concentrators earned an industry certification or passed an end-of-program (EOP) assessment.
- **76%** of postsecondary CTE concentrators earned a credential, certificate or degree.

Labor Market Trends

- Kentucky’s **Top 5** industry sectors:
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Business & IT Services
  - Construction & Skilled Trades
  - Healthcare & Social Assistance
  - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- Kentucky has systematically aligned career pathways at the secondary level to the state’s top 5 industry sectors and other critical support occupations, phasing out or reinventing over 50 career pathways to better align to state workforce demands.

Data from KYStats; https://kystats.ky.gov