Career and Technical Education (CTE) in North Dakota

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools and regional career and technical centers, which provide area school districts with technical education and career training resources.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through community colleges and tribal colleges.

In school year 2017-2018, 21,880 high school students and 11,144 postsecondary students participated in CTE in North Dakota.

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

CTE Highlights in North Dakota

- In 2019, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly created a skilled workforce scholarship and student loan repayment program called ND Career Builders to attract people into high-need and emerging occupations in the state. This partnership between the state and private-sector business makes funds available for students at colleges and universities around North Dakota. For each dollar of private support received, the state will contribute a dollar of public funding.

- North Dakota CTE students in Bismarck Public Schools are closing gender gaps in non-traditional occupational fields with the help of the Nontraditional Fields grant program. Five years ago, Bismarck was struggling with gender balance in Career Academy programs such as electronics, technical education and engineering, and information technology. As a result, the district was also having difficulty meeting Perkins indicators for students in CTE programs leading to career fields nontraditional for their gender. The district created Stepping into STEM, a hands-on event to bring female students into the Career Academy. It only took two years for Stepping into STEM to catch on and have an impact. The program was recently highlighted by North Dakota’s state CTE agency.

Student Performance (2018)

- 95% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 94% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 80% of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- 86% 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

- 60% of North Dakota’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 50% 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 construction and extraction, management, transportation and material moving, office and administrative support, and production.

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