Career and Technical Education (CTE) in New Jersey

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools and county vocational-technical schools, which provide supplemental education and career training to high school students and adult learners.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state’s community colleges.

In school year 2017-2018, 72,695 high school students and 106,510 postsecondary students participated in CTE in New Jersey.

In Fiscal Year 2020, New Jersey received an estimated $25,793,385 in federal Perkins funding—about $373,209 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in New Jersey

- Statewide voters approved a $500 million statewide bond referendum that will provide $275 million for CTE facilities expansion and equipment in New Jersey’s 21 county vocational-technical school districts, and $50 million to expand CTE in 18 community colleges. The state will fund 75% of expansion projects, with counties contributing 25% locally.
- Vocational-technical schools throughout New Jersey have created new programs aligned to the needs of the manufacturing industry and teaching high-demand skills, including fabrication, hydraulics, computer-aided design (CAD), robotics and mechatronics. Program graduates are prepared for apprenticeship opportunities, collegiate engineering programs and direct entry into the workforce.
- The multi-agency NJ Apprenticeship Network has placed an increased emphasis on apprenticeship programs and pathways in the Garden State, with new grants for employer-driven apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in industries including automotive technology, health care and manufacturing. The Monmouth County Vocational School District even launched the nation’s first registered apprenticeship for golf industry greenskeepers.

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

Student Performance (2018)

- 98% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 100% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for math and reading/language arts skills.
- 99% of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- 94% of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

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

Labor Market Trends

- 53% of New Jersey’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 37% of the state’s workers are trained at the middle-skill level.
- The top 5 industries for “good jobs” that pay a median income of $55,000+ without a bachelor’s degree are office and administrative support, management, sales, construction and extraction, and transportation and material moving.