Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Pennsylvania

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools and regional technology centers. Of the regional technology centers, most provide CTE courses for part of a student’s school day, but around a dozen centers provide comprehensive technical and academic courses.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state’s community colleges.

In school year 2017-2018, 63,601 high school students and 65,656 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Pennsylvania.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Pennsylvania received an estimated $45,114,979 in federal Perkins funding—about $688,437 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Pennsylvania

- **PAsmart** is providing $30 million in grants to strengthen K-12 STEM and computer science education, expand registered apprenticeships and support job training and industry partnerships. In 2019, Gov. Wolf launched PAsmart.gov, an online resource to help people explore pursuing an education and career in Pennsylvania at any stage of life.
- Pennsylvania has renewed its commitment to the program New Choices/New Options by increasing the allocation of funds to the program this year. New Choices/New Options provides free career decision-making and development services for displaced homemakers, single parents and people in work transitions.
- **H.B. 265** established that schools must provide at least one opportunity per year for representatives from skilled trades, priority occupations in the state, area CTE schools, community colleges and higher education institutions to provide students with information on employment, employment training and education opportunities. An advisory committee must also be created at the district level and for each CTE program or Career Cluster to advise school boards on curriculum, instructional materials, safety requirements and program evaluation.

Student Performance (2018)

- **99%** of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- **83%** of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- **92%** of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- **93%** of postsecondary CTE concentrators went on to the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.

Labor Market Trends

- **54%** of Pennsylvania’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only **43%** 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, production, transportation and material moving, and construction and extraction.

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