Career and Technical Education (CTE) in West Virginia

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools; county CTE centers, which are secondary schools that provide supplemental CTE programs to students from sending high schools within the county; and multi-county CTE centers. At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state’s community and technical colleges. County CTE centers also provide postsecondary CTE instruction.
- Learn more at https://careertech.org/west-virginia and www.actonline.org/WestVirginia.

CTE Highlights in West Virginia

- The West Virginia Department of Education is continuing to innovate with its Simulated Workplaces model, which changes the traditional classroom to a student-led company. Simulated Workplaces put business/industry processes directly into CTE; provide students an understanding of all aspects of an industry and how their performance impacts a company’s bottom line; present curriculum in a relevant and purposeful manner; and provide all students the opportunity to experience “real world” expectations, to earn industry-recognized credentials that lead to gainful employment and to be college and career ready. Business and industry experts took the lead in developing Simulated Workplace protocols and act as inspectors of the Simulated Workplace companies. For the 2020 Reverse Job Fair, Simulated Workplace students will host industry-specific program booths to showcase their technical skills, portfolios and talents to employers who are looking to hire skilled workers.

Student Performance (2018)

- 98% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 91% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 88% of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- 85% of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

Labor Market Trends

- 57% of West Virginia’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 49% 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 natural resources, manufacturing, transportation and utilities, construction and health services.

In school year 2017-2018, 43,127 high school students and 18,049 postsecondary students participated in CTE in West Virginia. In Fiscal Year 2020, West Virginia received an estimated $8,952,942 in federal Perkins funding—about $116,130 more in Fiscal Year 2019.

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