The Illinois economy is experiencing a skills gap...

52% of jobs in Illinois require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.

41% of Illinois workers are trained at this level.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can fill these gaps, particularly in Illinois’s key industries, like:

- agriculture and food production
- energy
- advanced manufacturing
- life sciences and biotechnology

Many students are already enrolled in CTE in Illinois, developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in work-based experiences with industry partners. During the 2019-20 school year, Illinois had:

278,883 secondary CTE participants

133,163 postsecondary CTE participants

These youth and adult learners in CTE programs are more engaged, graduate high school at higher rates, earn industry-recognized credentials, and have rewarding and family-sustaining careers.

More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across Illinois to ensure that all learners, including historically underserved learners, have access to high-quality CTE programs in high-skill, high-wage and in-demand career fields.

CTE: Good for Students, Good for Business, Good for Communities!

30,000+ Illinois students successfully completed dual credit CTE courses in 2018 that earned them college credit.

45,773 postsecondary credentials earned by CTE students in Illinois (2019-20)

FY 21 Federal Perkins CTE Funding for Illinois

$47,207,040

For more information visit www.actonline.org, www.isbe.net/cte and www.iacte.org. Data sources are available from publicpolicy@actonline.org.