The Rhode Island economy is experiencing a skills gap...  

50% of jobs in Rhode Island require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.  

41% of Rhode Island workers are trained at this level.  

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can fill these gaps, particularly in Rhode Island’s key industries, like:  
- defense, shipbuilding and maritime  
- design, food and custom manufacturing  
- travel and hospitality  
- IT software, cyber-physical systems and data analytics  

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

7,756 secondary CTE participants  
658 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 Rhode Island 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!