The Washington economy is experiencing a skills gap...

49% of jobs in Washington require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.

38% of Washington workers are trained at this level.

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

- aerospace
- agriculture and food manufacturing
- information and communications technology
- maritime

Many students are already enrolled in CTE in Washington, developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in work-based experiences with industry partners. During the 2020-21 school year, Washington had:

- **168,718** secondary CTE participants
- **93,270** 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.

- **30,218** postsecondary credentials earned by CTE students in Washington (2020-21)


More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across Washington 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!**