The District of Columbia’s economy is experiencing a skills gap... 

- 27% of jobs in the District require skills training—more education than high school but less than a four-year degree.
- 21% of District workers are trained at this level.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can fill these gaps, particularly in the District's key industries, like:
- technology and innovation
- hospitality and tourism
- higher education and health care
- retail and restaurants

Many students are already enrolled in CTE in the District of Columbia, developing technical, academic and employability skills and engaging in work-based experiences with industry partners. During the 2021-22 school year, the District had:

- 4,363 secondary CTE participants
- 1,033 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.

In 2022 60% of DC high school CTE concentrators graduated having participated in an internship, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship or cooperative education experience.

More investment is needed to scale CTE programs across the District of Columbia 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!**