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:  

- advanced manufacturing  
- agribusiness and food processing  
- transportation, distribution and logistics  
- energy  

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 2021-22 school year, Illinois had:  

266,448 secondary CTE participants  

119,600 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.  

52,309 postsecondary credentials earned by CTE students in Illinois (2021-22)  

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!