

2026 Mid-Year in Review

State Policies Impacting CTE

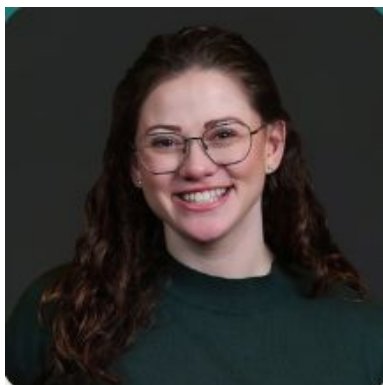


ASSOCIATION FOR
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ADVANCE CTE
State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work

PRESENTERS

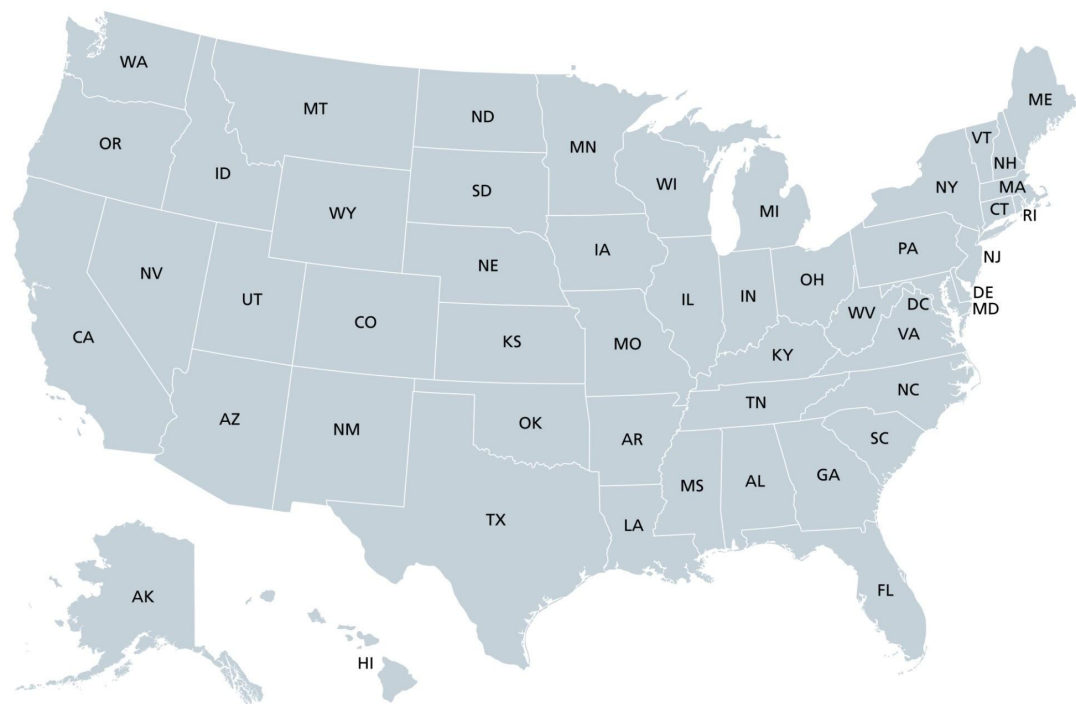


KARA SEIDEL, PhD
POLICY ASSOCIATE,
ADVANCE CTE



JESUS GALVAN
RESEARCH & POLICY
COORDINATOR,
ACTE

AGENDA



Introduction and purpose of the Year in Review Project

Share high-level CTE policy updates

Highlight policy trends and examples observed in 2026 legislative sessions

Share longitudinal policy tracker and upcoming events

YEAR IN REVIEW: PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 14th annual project collaboration between ACTE and Advance CTE
- Tracking cycle conducted throughout the year, CTE policies validated by state CTE directors
- Longitudinal state policy tracker, which houses every policy tracked since 2013
- Report and presentations on results

STATE POLICY IN LOCAL CONTEXT

Better
understand
national and
state trends.

Review policies and
models that you can
implement in your
local area.

Advocate for
quality policy in
your own state.

CTE POLICY TAGS

FUNDING

WORK-BASED LEARNING

ACCESS/SUPPORTS

**DATA, REPORTING AND/OR
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
CREDENTIALS**

**DUAL/CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT
AND ARTICULATION**

**CAREER/ACADEMIC
COUNSELING**

CTE TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CTE STANDARDS

CTSOs

GOVERNANCE

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

STEM

**TECHNICAL/EMPLOYABILITY
ASSESSMENTS**

CURRENT TOP LEVEL FINDINGS

OF POLICIES

As of August 2026, **39 states** enacted or passed a total of **164 policies**

Note that these findings are subject to change as the project progresses.

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Industry Partnerships/WBL (48 policies)
Data, Reporting, & Accountability (43)
Governance (35)

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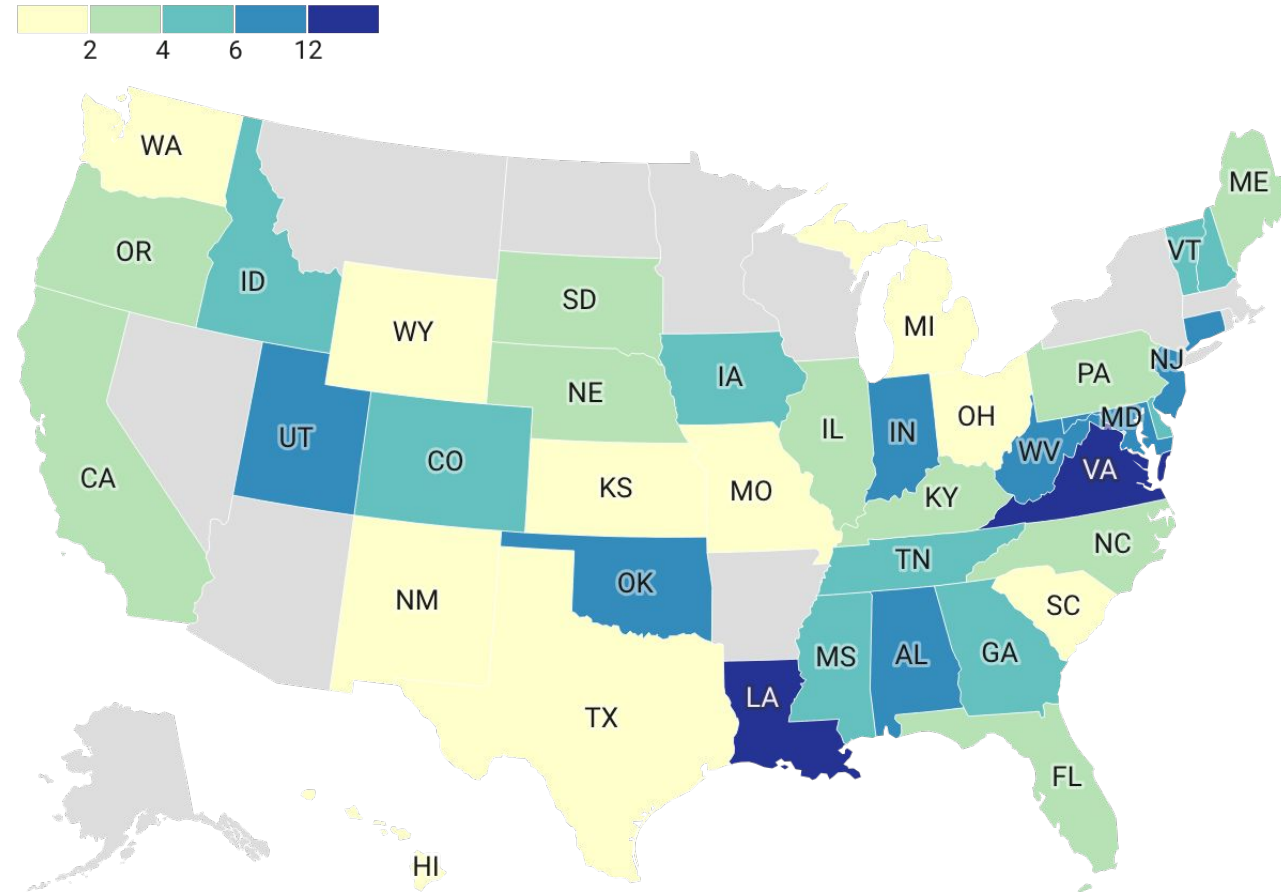
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STATE-LEVEL POLICY ACTIVITY

of CTE state policies enacted so far, 2026



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SCALING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

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NEBRASKA - L.B. 847

- Establishes **Office of Registered Apprenticeship**
 - Standards for **state apprenticeship credentials**
 - Requirements for **(pre-)apprenticeships**

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SOUTH DAKOTA - S.B. 63

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 - **Promote registered apprenticeships** as workforce development tool
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UTAH - S.B. 195

- **Requirements for federal WF Pell** administered by state
- Creates **Statewide Youth Apprenticeship Governance Council**
 - Administration of **youth apprenticeships**
 - **Cross-agency** implementation
 - Statewide **strategies for expansion** and participation
- Updates rules for **data collection, reporting, and evaluation**

COMMONALITIES & STATE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

- State apprenticeship agency
- Requirements for (pre-)apprenticeships
- Apprenticeship standards
- Credential requirements

LEVERAGING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MISSOURI E.O. 2

- Directs the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, to:
 - **Evaluate** status of **AI-related programming across the state**
 - Conduct **landscape analysis** of existing partnerships
 - Analyze **education and labor market data** to determine AI workforce alignment
 - Develop **best practices** for AI-related education
 - Create **new degree programs** based on high-demand AI-related skills

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UTAH H.B. 273

- Requires State Board of Education to develop **model frameworks and policy** for **safe and effective use of artificial intelligence** in the classroom
 - Appropriate **use of AI as a tool**
 - Rules about the **use of AI by learners**
- Allows creation of **AI sandbox courses** to allow learners hands-on experiences with AI instruction
 - Focused on **workforce development needs** in emerging fields

COMMONALITIES & STATE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

- State Departments tasked with overseeing AI
- Best practices for AI in education
- WF development in AI-related fields/skills

GOVERNANCE

LOUISIANA S.C.R. 33

- Work-Based Learning Coordination Task force → study and plan out programs
- Responsible for
 - Inventory of WBL,
 - WBL office,
 - Website with information,
 - Decision-making re: funding
 - Tracking metrics and planning longitudinal data system
 - Identifying standards
 - Developing pilots related to health care, manufacturing, and K-12-to-college pathways

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NEW JERSEY A.B. 5802

- Establishes Statewide Longitudinal Data System Governing Body within the Department of Education
 - Tasked with **overseeing the Statewide Longitudinal Data System** for Education and Workforce Development
 - **Identifies critical research and policy questions** and **disseminates information** to education and workforce development entities
- Supports evidence-based policy
 - Supports residents to access affordable training and postsecondary credentials

COMMONALITIES & STATE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

- Centralized coordination and oversight
- Data-informed decision-making
- Workforce coordination across sectors

DATA, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

UTAH S.B. 216

- Board of Ed conducts a technical college capacity framework study
- State legislature must annually **determine change in amount of enrollment funding** to technical colleges & degree-granting institutions
- Five-year performance period: must **establish performance models** as to whether institutions are responsive to workforce needs through:
 - Credentials aligned with high-demand jobs
 - Degrees & certificates awarded per learner
 - Placement rates of learners into employment (technical college)

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 - **Credential attainment**
 - **Misalignment between program offerings & high-wage career opportunities**
- Each campus must provide goals for completion rates

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ALABAMA H.B. 517

- Tax credits for employers program - agreement between employers and educational institutions
 - Employers agreeing to **comply with proper documentation** and certificate (specifically for teaching)
- Department of Education must submit report on **effectiveness**, including:
 - **Participation & workforce outcomes data**
 - Whether program should be extended

COMMONALITIES & STATE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

- Data-driven program evaluation
- Alignment between education and labor market
- Credentials & completion

FUNDING

GEORGIA H.B. 1293

- Requires state board to develop **funding formula for Dual Achievement Program** (to be included in state's budget request)
- Factors considered for funding:
 - Number of students enrolled & expected to graduate
 - Number of credit hours attempted & completed
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MISSISSIPPI H.B. 562

- Creates the Upskill Mississippi Grant Program
 - **Free access** to workforce-aligned community and junior college program
 - Office of Financial aid **reviews applications** - must not use more than five percent of allocated funds

COMMONALITIES & STATE-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

- Targeted funding
- Avoiding duplicate funding
- Coordination across funding (state and federal funding - Workforce Pell)

STATE LONGITUDINAL POLICY TRACKER

State

☐ Select all

☐ Alabama

☐ Alaska

☐ Arizona

☐ Arkansas

☐ California

☐ Colorado

☐ Connecticut

Year

Select all	2016	2020	2024
2013	2017	2021	2025
2014	2018	2022	
2015	2019	2023	

System Tags

Select all	Postsec
Adult	Secondary
Middle School	Workforce

Content Tags

☐ Select all

☐ Access & Supports

☐ Applied Bachelor's Degrees

☐ Career/Academic Counseling

☐ COVID-19

☐ CTE Standards/Accreditation

☐ CTE Teacher Cert/Dev

☐ CTSO/Leadership Development

Clear all Filters

Instructions

Trend Data

State	Year	Bill #	Description	System Tag All	Content Tags All
Alabama	2013	State BOE	Alabama issued a new rule regarding CTE teacher certificates. An educator is now required to achieve passing scores on the basic skills assessments of the Alabama Educator Certification Testing Program (AECTP) in order to obtain an initial Specialty Area Career and Technical Certificate.	Secondary	Technical/Employability Assessments;CTE Teacher Cert/Dev
Alabama	2013	State BOE	Alabama passed a \$50 million bond issue to support technology and CTE programs. Ten million will be divided among schools based on the technology programs offered; \$20 million will be distributed based on the number of CTE students at each school; and the final \$20 million is to be distributed through grants	Middle School;Secondary	Funding;STEM
Alabama	2014	H.B. 384	H.B. 384 establishes a scholarship program for CTE dual enrollment, intended to be funded by private donations from businesses and individuals, who in turn receive a tax credit equal to 50 percent of their donations. Businesses that donate to the program can direct up to 80 percent of their contributions to a particular CTE program. H.B. 384 also clarifies that the Department of Postsecondary Education may annually allocate up to \$200,000 of the funds received pursuant to this act for qualifying educational expenses for administrative costs of the CTE dual-enrollment program.	Secondary	Funding;Industry Partnerships/Work-Based Learning;Dual/Concurrent Enrollment/Articulation
Alabama	2014	S.B. 184	S. B. 184 appropriates \$5 million for dual enrollment for CTE programs. The funds are to be distributed by the chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, who is directed to work with industry partners to identify workforce needs. The bill also appropriates \$4.3 million in workforce development funds, including \$600,000 for career coaches and up to \$200,000 to develop regional goals and plans for education-workforce alignment.	Secondary;Workforce	Funding;Industry Partnerships/Work-Based Learning;Dual/Concurrent Enrollment/Articulation;Career/Academic Counseling
Alabama	2014	S.B. 217	S.B. 217 establishes the Alabama Workforce Council to collaborate across P-12, postsecondary, and business and industry, and to serve as an advisory body in formulating policies and developing innovative educational workforce programming.	Middle School;Secondary;Postsec-Workforce	Industry Partnerships/Work-Based Learning;Governance
Total					

Microsoft Power BI

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123%



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Six states still in a legislative session, and one is in a special session
- Continuing to track and review policies, state budgets, BOE actions, executive orders, etc
 - If you are aware of 2026 policies we should consider adding to our analyses, email either jgalvan@acteonline.org or kseidel@careertech.org
- Presenting at ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2026
- Full report expected late February 2027, with a webinar to follow

UPCOMING EVENTS



[ACTE Best Practices for Administrators](#)

Denver, CO

October 6-8



[Advance CTE Fall Meeting](#)

Denver, CO

October 20-22



[ACTE CareerTech VISION](#)

New Orleans, LA

December 2-5



ANY QUESTIONS?

Jesus Galvan, ACTE
jgalvan@acteonline.org

Kara Seidel, Advance CTE
kseidel@careertech.org