

# WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?



## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career Connected Learning  
for All Students

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares individuals for high-skill, high-wage, in-demand employment that furthers Illinois' global competitiveness. CTE programs provide learners with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to thrive in college and careers. All students benefit from career-connected learning that emphasizes real-world skills within a selected career focus. Students gain practical knowledge while discovering and preparing for success in potential careers.

### CTE WORKS

- Middle and high school CTE programs in Illinois serve more than 283,000 students. Students take specialized courses, in addition to the required courses in core academic subjects; participate in work-based learning; engage with mentors; and practice what they are learning through hands-on projects. They often have opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credits while in high school.
- Illinois' community college CTE programs serve more than 131,000 students. Programs offer flexible scheduling, work-based learning, and stackable credentials that provide a pathway from education to employment not only for recent high school graduates, but also for returning adults, veterans, and workers wanting to update their skills.

### AN ECONOMIC ENGINE

- Informed by labor market data, CTE prepares students for tomorrow's careers. CTE offers education and advanced training to support high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations, including in Healthcare, Information Technology, Agriculture, Finance, and Education.

- Thriving, modernized CTE programs across Illinois are critical to meeting the State's goal of 60 percent of all Illinoisans with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2025.
- Employer engagement ensures that students have access to industry experts and work-based learning opportunities and that businesses gain a steady pipeline of talent.

### INVEST IN CTE

- CTE in Illinois is funded through the federal *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (also known as Perkins V) and through matching state CTE appropriations.

The Illinois State Board of Education recommended a **\$12.6 million state funding increase in FY 2020, for a total of \$50.67 million, to support rural and other high-need districts in updating their CTE opportunities.**

The Illinois Community College Board recommended a **\$1.8 million increase in FY 2020, for a total of \$19.9 million in state appropriations, to drive local economic growth through career-connected learning.**

### CTE DELIVERS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS



**86%**

of parents and students nationally in 2017 said they wish students could get more real world knowledge and skills during high school



**97%**

of students who completed CTE programs in Illinois graduated from high school - compared to the 88 percent statewide average in 2018



**63%**

of Illinois students taking CTE courses in 2017 enrolled in postsecondary education after graduating high school



**63%**

or roughly two-thirds of all Illinois community college graduates earned a CTE degree or certificate in 2018



**30,000+**

students successfully completed dual credit CTE courses in 2018 that earned them college credit, saving time and money toward their degrees



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