

Workforce Readiness

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) IN K-12 SCHOOLS REPRESENT A CRITICAL INVESTMENT IN TENNESSEE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Overview

As the modern workforce continues to evolve, it's increasingly important to improve alignment among student instruction, industry needs, post-secondary options, and teacher preparation.

Tennesseans for Student Success actively supports policies that strengthen opportunities for students to gain in-demand skills through apprenticeships, internships, and credentials, as well as pathways that streamline the pipeline for students from K-12 to higher education and industry, providing more opportunities for more students to receive a post-graduate credential or degree.

Opportunities:

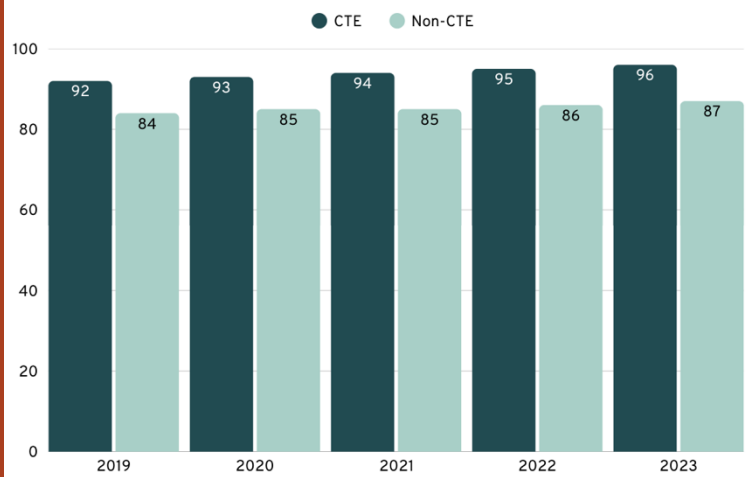
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Teacher Recruitment & Retention: schools struggle to recruit and retain high-quality CTE instructors, specifically in higher-paying field like IT and advanced manufacturing

02

Equipment & Facilities: many schools lack facilities that reflect industry standards, especially in rural districts, leading to disparities in CTE participation and outcomes across geographic regions.

Graduation Rate for Students with CTE Concentration vs. Non-CTE Concentration



Students who earn a CTE-concentration on their high school diploma graduate at rates 5-10% higher than non-CTE students, and 65% of CTE concentrators enroll in postsecondary education or enter the workforce in their field of study within one year of graduation

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Tennessee Pathways - since its launch in 2018, the program has certified over 280 pathways
- Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) has provided \$50 million in grant funding to support collaboration between K-12, postsecondary, and industry in rural and underserved communities
- Work-Based Learning programs have expanded to include approximately 9,000 students annually
- Early Postsecondary Opportunities allow students to earn postsecondary credits and industry certifications in high school, with other 40,000 students earning credentials annually
- Tennessee Promise & Tennessee Reconnect make community and technical colleges tuition-free, creating pathways from K-12 CTE programs to postsecondary credentials

Tennesseans for
STUDENT SUCCESS

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