# Frequently Asked Questions about Career and Technical Education in the U. S.

**How much money is spent on career and technical education (CTE) in the U.S.?**

Congress authorizes roughly $1.1B annually in Federal formula grants to States and, in turn, local education agencies and postsecondary institutions under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). It is estimated that Federal funding accounts for 5 to 7 percent of all spending by States on secondary CTE and 2 percent of all spending by States on postsecondary CTE. For information on State financing for CTE, please see: http://s3.amazonaws.com/NCICTE/pdf/NCICTE_CTE_Finance_Study.pdf

**How many schools offer CTE?**

CTE is offered in a variety of settings at the secondary level, including regular high schools (67 percent of all public high schools), career and technical high schools (4 percent), and other types of special-focus schools (e.g., science high school, special education high school; 29 percent). [NCES CTES web table H1[1]]

According to the latest data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in 2008, 83 percent of all public high schools offered CTE courses. This includes 94 percent of regular high schools and 55 percent of (non-CTE) special focus high schools. [NCES CTES web table H1]

**How many postsecondary institutions offer CTE?**

According to the latest NCES data, in 2014, nearly all of the nation's 1,020 public 2-year institutions and roughly 50 percent of the nation's 701 public 4-year institutions offered subbaccalaureate CTE credentials (certificates and associate's degrees). About 40 percent of the nation's 1,827 private nonprofit institutions and 95 percent of the 3,360 for-profit 2-year institutions also offer subbaccalaureate CTE credentials. [NCES CTES web tables P140 and P141]

**What is the split of Federal funding by States for secondary and postsecondary CTE?**

According to the latest State Perkins budget submissions in 2017, States allocated 64 percent of their Perkins funding for secondary CTE and 36 percent of their Perkins funding for postsecondary CTE.

**How many students participate in CTE at the secondary level?**

According to the latest Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) data, in 2016, States reported that 8.10 million secondary students participated (took at least one course) in CTE.[2] This represents a slight increase from 2008 when 7.59 million secondary students participated.

According to the latest NCES data, in 2009, 76 percent of the nation's 3.9 million public high school graduates completed one or more full-year occupational CTE courses and 19 percent were CTE concentrators who had earned at least three credits in the same occupational field. [NCES CTES web tables H123, H124, and p. 45 in 2011-328]

The most common occupational CTE subject areas for secondary students were business (33 percent of high school graduates earned credits), communications and design (30 percent), and computer and information sciences (21 percent). [NCES CTES web table H123]

From 1990 to 2009, high school students' participation in CTE declined. [NCES CTES web table H125 and 2014-901]. However, participation trends varied by occupational area, with participation increasing in consumer and culinary services, public services, health care, and communications and design. [NCES CTES web tables H 126 and 2014-901]

**How many students participate in CTE at the postsecondary level?**

According to the latest CAR data, in 2016, States reported that 3.73 million postsecondary students participated in CTE.[3] This represents a decrease from 2008 when 4.36 million postsecondary students participated.

According to the latest NCES data, 8.4 million (38 percent) of the nation's 22 million credential-seeking undergraduates were seeking a subbaccalaureate credential in a CTE field in 2012. [NCES CTES web tables P127, P128]

About half of these postsecondary CTE students were in the two fields of health sciences (36 percent) or business (17 percent). [NCES CTES web table P139]

The number of students earning subbaccalaureate credentials in CTE fields rose 75 percent from 2000 to 2012. [NCES CTES web table P161]

**What is the cost[4] per student participating in CTE?**

According to the latest CAR data, as of 2016, the cost per secondary student participating in CTE was $72.40, which has decreased slightly from $80 in 2015. The cost per postsecondary student placed in further education, employment or the military was $128.70 which has increased steadily from $79.00 placed in 2004.

**Where can I locate the latest information and data regarding State's Perkins grants?**

The Department provides State Perkins profiles with a full range of information on each State's Perkins plans, funding levels, distribution of funds, and performance data. Please visit the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at: http://cte.ed.gov/grants/state-profiles. Also on the PCRN, users can create customized reports on State's enrollment and performance data. Please visit: https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/

**Where can I locate the latest national assessments of career and technical education?**

The latest national assessments are available on the Department's Program and Policy Studies (PPSS) Website at: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/ppss/reports.html#cte

**Where can I locate the latest national statistics on career and technical education?**

The latest national statistics are available on the Department's NCES Website at: https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes/

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1 NCES CTES web tables are located at: https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes/index.asp.

2 The secondary enrollment figures reported by States to the Department via the CAR are often lower than national averages because they typically only account for students enrolled in Perkins-funded CTE programs.

3 The postsecondary enrollment figures reported by States to the Department via the CAR are often lower than national averages because they typically only account for students enrolled in Perkins-funded CTE programs.

4 Costs are calculated based on Federal Perkins dollars only.