Career and Technical Education

Secondary CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, career centers that provide supplemental programs to students in larger school districts, two correctional agencies, and independent, multidistrict centers that provide programs to students from districts without career centers. Postsecondary CTE is delivered through the technical colleges.¹

In FY 2015, 57% of secondary and 56% of postsecondary students enrolled in CTE were economically disadvantaged.²

Career Clusters

Seven of the 16 career clusters in CTE lead to high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand STEM-related careers. These clusters include Agriculture, Architecture, Health, Information Technology, Manufacturing, STEM, and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics and contain programs that prepare students for nontraditional careers.

In FY 2015³, 82% of secondary and 81% of postsecondary students enrolled in CTE were economically disadvantaged.²

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Middle-Skill and STEM Jobs

The pipeline to middle-skill and STEM jobs loses young people at every level of the education system. Thus, the supply of sufficiently trained workers will not meet the demand of key industries.

Fast Facts

From 2014 to 2024…

- Computing jobs will grow by 22%.⁴
- Engineering jobs will grow by 16%.⁴
- Advanced manufacturing jobs will grow by 19%.⁴
- Of all job openings, 53% will require training at the middle-skill level.⁵

Yet…

- 14% of students who enter an associate’s degree program graduate.⁴
- 57% of students who enter a bachelor’s degree program graduate.⁴
- 46% of workers are trained to the middle-skill level.⁵

2016 AP Test Taking and Passing⁶

Students pursuing careers in STEM, particularly computer science and engineering, must become academically prepared early in their educational trajectory.⁷

For South Carolina, in 2016, college-bound female students earned an average math SAT score of 480, compared to 509 for male students.⁸

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Data Sources (retrieved April 2017)

1 https://www.actonline.org/stateprofiles/
2 https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant
3 https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEConcentrator (race not available for clusters)
4 http://vitalsigns.changetheequation.org/
5 http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/state-policy/fact-sheets
8 https://reports.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-program-results/class-of-2016-results/state-reports

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