Career and Technical Education

At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools and CTE high schools. At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state’s technology centers, which provide 2-year and certificate-level occupational and technical training programs, and community colleges.¹

In FY 2015, 51% of secondary and 67% 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 2015, 2% of postsecondary CTE participators were American Indian/Alaskan Native and 2% were Black/African American.

Postsecondary CTE Participators, FY 2015²

In FY 2015, 71% of secondary and 71% of postsecondary students enrolled in CTE were White.

Secondary CTE Participators, FY 2015²

Secondary Enrollment, FY 2015³

Postsecondary Enrollment, FY 2015³

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
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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 18%.\(^4\)
- Engineering jobs will grow by 10%.\(^4\)
- Advanced manufacturing jobs will grow by 14%.\(^4\)
- Of all job openings, 53% will require training at the middle skill-level.\(^5\)

Yet…

- 27% of students who enter an associate’s degree program graduate.\(^4\)
- 51% of students who enter a bachelor’s degree program graduate.\(^4\)
- 45% of workers are trained to the middle-skill level.\(^5\)

2016 AP Test Taking and Passing\(^6\)

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

For Tennessee, in 2016, college-bound female students earned an average math SAT score of 563, compared to 601 for male students.\(^8\)

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Data Sources (retrieved April 2017)

1 https://www.acteonline.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