Career and Technical Education

At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, magnet schools, career academies within comprehensive high schools, and stand-alone career academies, which are career academies that function independently of a comprehensive high school. At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through 57 community, state, and technical colleges on 79 campuses, including 4 Texas State Technical College campuses.¹

In FY 2015, 53% of secondary and 44% 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.
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 21%.  
- Engineering jobs will grow by 19%.  
- Advanced manufacturing jobs will grow by 27%.  
- Of all job openings, 50% will require training at the middle skill-level.

Yet...

- 25% of students who enter an associate’s degree program graduate.  
- 53% of students who enter a bachelor’s degree program graduate.  
- 42% of workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

2016 AP Test Taking and Passing

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

For Texas, in 2016, college-bound female students earned an average math SAT score of 467, compared to 490 for male students.

State CTE Contact

Diane Salazar, State Director for Career and Technical Education Curriculum Division, TX Education Agency 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 463-9581, diane.salazar@tea.texas.gov

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