

Date: November 29, 2023

PURPOSE

Delaware has a rich history in developing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study through the state's technical school districts and community college system. Building upon these efforts, the state is engaged in the development of a career pathways system for youth and adults that strengthens the relationship between educators, employers, and the community to serve the needs of all learners. This system acknowledges that the path to continuing education and a career is not the same for all youth.

Career pathways begin in the Delaware public education system (K-12) through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered in charter, comprehensive, and technical school districts. These pathways continue through adult education, occupational training programs, and postsecondary programs that are administered by partnering state agencies, institutions of higher education, and other service providers. Students who complete a CTE program attain a secondary school diploma, earn an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or license that holds value in the labor market, and have the opportunity to enter the workforce or pursue an apprenticeship, certificate, Associate, or Bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education in Delaware.

BACKGROUND

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is delivered through a series of programs of study that prepare youth for a specific occupation or a career within an occupational group. Programs of study are offered through a non-duplicative sequence of courses that span secondary (middle and high school) and postsecondary education. CTE programs are offered across three (3) technical school districts (six (6) high schools), 16 comprehensive school districts (29 high schools and 39 middle schools), ten (10) charter high schools, three (3) charter middle schools, and two (2) institutions that serve at-risk youth. At the postsecondary level, CTE programs are offered at Delaware Technical Community Colleges (four (4) campuses) and Registered Apprenticeship and Trade Extension programs (three (3) technical school districts and the Delaware Skills Center).

- Technical school districts represent three (3) county-wide school districts that provide CTE education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Each school district is governed by an appointed school board. Technical school districts serve youth in grades 9 through 12 and adult learners through programs focused on credential attainment, trade extension, and Registered Apprenticeship. Secondary programs are six (6) to ten (10) credits in duration and culminate in an industry certification, advanced credit, and an internship or paid work-based learning opportunity with a partnering employer. Postsecondary programs are designed to upskill adult learners and involve both classroom-focused instruction and on-the-job training. Regional and state labor markets are reflected in both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs.
- Comprehensive school districts represent 16 geographic school districts serving students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Each school district is governed by an elected school board. CTE programs offered in comprehensive school districts span middle and high school. Middle school programs are designed to help youth explore their career interests and develop skills necessary for high school readiness. High school programs are three (3) to four (4) credits in duration and culminate in an

industry-recognized credential, advanced credit, and a work-based learning program with a partnering employer. Business and industry partnerships typically reflect those within the community that the district serves.

- Charter schools are independent, tuition-free public schools, serving students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The "charter" establishing each school is a contract, which states the school's mission, program, and measurable goals. Charter schools may be authorized by the State Department of Education or a local school district. CTE programs offered in charter schools may include middle school programs and high school programs based on the grade level configuration of the school. High school programs are three (3) to four (4) credits in duration and culminate in an industry certification, advanced credit, and work-based learning program with a partnering employer. Business and industry partnerships typically reflect the school charter.
- Delaware Technical Community College (Delaware Tech) is the statewide community college system which includes four (4) regional campuses located in Wilmington, Stanton, Dover, and Georgetown. Delaware Tech is governed by an appointed Board of Directors and serves both youth and adult learners. Youth are served through early college and career programs, remediation programs, and community-based programs. Adults are served through credential and degree programs, community-based programs, and customized workforce training programs with employers. CTE programs at Delaware Tech include Pell eligible credential programs and two-year degree programs. Regional and state labor markets are reflected in postsecondary CTE programs.

ACCOUNTABILITY DEFINITIONS

As youth and adults matriculate through a CTE program of study at the secondary or postsecondary levels, terminology is applied to the student's enrollment status for the purposes of accountability.

At the secondary level a:

- *Participant* is any student who has completed one or more CTE courses;
- *Concentrator* is a student who has completed at least two (2) courses in a state-approved CTE program of study; and
- *Completer* is any student who has successfully completed a state-approved CTE program of study.

At the postsecondary level a:

- *Participant* is any postsecondary student who completes one or more courses in any Perkins-eligible CTE program area;
- *Concentrator* is a postsecondary participant who: (1) completes at least 12 credits within a career and technical education program or program of study; (2) completes a short-term CTE credential program; (3) completes 144 clock hours of training in a long-term CTE credential program; or (4) completes the first related technical instruction sequence in a Registered Apprenticeship program. The CTE program, short- or long-term credential program, or Registered Apprenticeship program must be Perkins-eligible and terminate in an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or a degree; and
- *Completer* is any postsecondary student who receives an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or a degree during the reporting year. Concentration and completion occur simultaneously for short-term credential programs.

QUICK FACTS

Secondary CTE Programs (source Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), school year 2022-23)

- 56% of all youth in grades 7 & 8 participated in a middle school CTE program (18,485 out of 33,008 students);
- 67.9% of all youth in grades 9-12 are enrolled in a secondary CTE program of study (30,616 out of 45,062 students);
- 62% of all youth in grades 11 and 12 have completed 50% or more of the courses required to complete a secondary CTE program of study (13,386 out of 21,571 students); and
- 64% of all youth in grade 12 have completed a secondary CTE program of study (7,093 out of 11,046 students).

Postsecondary CTE Programs (source DDOE, school year 2022-23)

- 9,794 students (6,996 at Delaware Technical Community College, 1,374 at New Castle Vocational-Technical School District, 803 at Polytech, 590 at Sussex Vo-Tech School District, and 31 in Prison Education) are enrolled in a postsecondary CTE program of study;
- 32% of concentrators (2,520 out of 7,979 students) earned a credential, certificate, or degree through a postsecondary CTE program of study; and
- 45% of students (1,069 out of 2,365 students) were placed into employment or continuing education six months after completing a postsecondary CTE program of study.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) (source DDOE, school year 2022-23)

- CTSOs are youth organizations designed to support CTE programs of study and provide students with an opportunity to develop leadership, academic, and technical skills through competitive events at the state and national level;
- Delaware supports the following Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): Business Professionals of America (BPA), DECA, Educators Rising, Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), National FFA Association, HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Technology Student Association (TSA), and SkillsUSA; and
- More than 12,000 students at the middle and high school levels are actively participating in state competitions and local leadership/community-service activities.

FISCAL ALLOCATION AND BUDGET (source Delaware Department of Education, state fiscal year 2024)

Total Perkins Allocation to the State	\$6,281,578
Local Formula (not less than 85% of total allocation)	\$5,339,342
Reserve Fund (not more than 10% of local formula)	\$800,901
Secondary Pass-through (85% of local formula less the Reserve Fund)	\$3,630,753
Postsecondary Pass-through (15% of local formula less the Reserve Fund)	\$907,688
State Leadership (not more than 10% of total allocation)	\$628,158
Corrections & Institutions (not more than 1% of total allocation)	\$20,000
Non-Traditional Employment (not less than \$60,000 or more than \$150,000)	\$60,000
Other State Leadership	\$547,530
State Administration (not more than 5% of total allocation or \$250,000)	\$314,079