

It is Time to Double the Investment in CTE!

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides middle school, high school, postsecondary, and adult learners with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for successful careers. Learners enrolled in CTE programs progress along a pathway of increasingly specific academic and technical courses. They often have the opportunity to participate in internships, engage with employers, and apply what they are learning through hands-on projects.

Funding for CTE supports a variety of activities, including:

- Professional development for teachers and faculty to remain up to date on the latest industry advances;
- Career counseling, guidance, and advisement;
- Career exploration opportunities for students;
- Creation of new programs and associated equipment to prepare the future workforce;
- Improvement and expansion of existing programs; and
- Building of industry partnerships and more.

Across the country, CTE programs are preparing learners for promising careers and giving employers and our economy a competitive edge.

CTE programs provide unique opportunities for learners to **engage with employers and participate in internships, apprenticeships, and other meaningful on-the-job experiences**. Ninety percent of Americans agree that apprenticeships and skills training programs prepare students for a good standard of living.

Students involved in CTE are far less likely to drop out of high school than other students. An increase in the statewide graduation rate to 90 percent would mean an annual increase of \$79.4 million in the state's gross domestic product (Alliance for Excellent Education).





With demand for technical skills growing, America needs more funding to expand and improve CTE programs to serve more learners and employers.

73%

of Americans said increasing federal spending on K-12 public education is extremely important when asked to identify their priorities for the new Congress.

Nearly **60 percent of companies report having difficulty filling job openings** because of a lack of qualified applicants, which can cost a company more than \$800,000 each year in lost productivity and recruitment.

A survey of school districts offering CTE found that **the top barrier to offering CTE in high school was a lack of funding or the high cost of the programs.**

Expanding funding for CTE programs will create a brighter future for our community — leading to more career options for learners, better results for employers, and increased growth for our economy.



The high school **graduation rate for students with a concentration of CTE courses is in Virginia is 97 percent**, about 13 percentage points higher than the national average and 11 percentage points higher than the Virginia average.

The estimated **impact of a 90 percent graduation rate nationwide (calculated for the class of 2015) is a \$5.7 billion increase in economic growth** and \$664 million in additional federal, state, and local taxes.

That is why the CTE community is leading the charge to double the federal investment in programs that work for America. Visit www.ISupportCTE.org and sign your company or organization on to the Double the Investment in CTE campaign!

About Our Campaign

We are asking employers to sign on to support the campaign to double the federal and state of Virginia investment in CTE. This is a shared campaign; we invite everyone to join the effort! The signatures collected from employers will be a critical component to building visibility and support for CTE with members of Congress and the Virginia General Assembly.