WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares individuals for high-skill, high-wage, in-demand employment that furthers Illinois’ global competitiveness. CTE programs provide learners with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to thrive in college and careers. All students benefit from career-connected learning that emphasizes real-world skills within a selected career focus. Students gain practical knowledge while discovering and preparing for success in potential careers.

CTE WORKS
- Middle and high school CTE programs in Illinois serve more than 283,000 students. Students take specialized courses, in addition to the required courses in core academic subjects; participate in work-based learning; engage with mentors; and practice what they are learning through hands-on projects. They often have opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credits while in high school.
- Illinois’ community college CTE programs serve more than 131,000 students. Programs offer flexible scheduling, work-based learning, and stackable credentials that provide a pathway from education to employment not only for recent high school graduates, but also for returning adults, veterans, and workers wanting to update their skills.

AN ECONOMIC ENGINE
- Informed by labor market data, CTE prepares students for tomorrow’s careers. CTE offers education and advanced training to support high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations, including in Healthcare, Information Technology, Agriculture, Finance, and Education.
- Thriving, modernized CTE programs across Illinois are critical to meeting the State’s goal of 60 percent of all Illinoisans with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2025.
- Employer engagement ensures that students have access to industry experts and work-based learning opportunities and that businesses gain a steady pipeline of talent.

INVEST IN CTE
- CTE in Illinois is funded through the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (also known as Perkins V) and through matching state CTE appropriations.

The Illinois State Board of Education recommended a $12.6 million state funding increase in FY 2020, for a total of $50.67 million, to support rural and other high-need districts in updating their CTE opportunities.

The Illinois Community College Board recommended a $1.8 million increase in FY 2020, for a total of $19.9 million in state appropriations, to drive local economic growth through career-connected learning.

CTE DELIVERS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- 86% of parents and students nationally in 2017 said they wish students could get more real-world knowledge and skills during high school.
- 97% of students who completed CTE programs in Illinois graduated from high school — compared to the 88 percent statewide average in 2018.
- 63% of Illinois students taking CTE courses in 2017 enrolled in postsecondary education after graduating high school.
- 63% or roughly two-thirds of all Illinois community college graduates earned a CTE degree or certificate in 2018.
- 30,000+ students successfully completed dual credit CTE courses in 2018 that earned them college credit, saving time and money toward their degrees.