Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy that expands options for learners, empowers them to choose a meaningful and sustainable career, and prepares them with real-world skills for success in college and careers. Through hands-on learning, engagement with industry experts and rigorous academic and career-focused coursework, CTE is learning that works for Illinois’ students – and its economy.

**CTE Works for Learners in Illinois**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTE Enrollment</th>
<th>High School Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>280,755</strong></td>
<td><strong>151,988</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Postsecondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>86%</strong></td>
<td><strong>99%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Average</td>
<td>CTE Concentrators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcomes for Learners in Illinois**

- **63%** high school CTE graduates enrolling in college, enlisting in the military or working within six months
- **70%** postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring
- **65%** postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree
- **69%** postsecondary CTE graduates placed in careers or further training within six months

**Fun fact:** STEM Learning Exchanges, launched in Illinois in 2012, connect education and business leaders through a statewide network that helps align CTE curriculum with industry standards, place students in work-based learning opportunities and provide CTE teacher professional development.

**CTE Works for Illinois’ Economy**

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 53 percent of Illinois’s labor market.
- However, only 42 percent of workers in Illinois are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs, leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 87,754 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Illinois in 2015 – about 41 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.

In Illinois, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.
4. Ibid.
5. [https://careertech.org/resource/illinois-stem-learning-exchanges](https://careertech.org/resource/illinois-stem-learning-exchanges)
6. Based on Advance CTE’s analysis of fastest-growing occupations by state. This represents occupations with high annual projected job openings that require an associate’s degree and provide an average wage of at least $34,760. Retrieved from [https://www.careerinonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1](https://www.careerinonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1)