Education Funding:
Perkins Act

What do you need to know?

What is it?

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act provides approximately over $1.2 billion annually to States for the improvement of vocational and technical education programs. Funds are intended to help prepare students for further education and careers in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors and occupations.

How are funds distributed?

States and, subsequently, school districts receive Perkins funds based upon the most recent poverty estimates and the number of individuals aged 5 to 17 residing in the school district. States allocate formula funds and/or competitive grants to both school districts and postsecondary institutions. The specific distribution of funds varies by state.

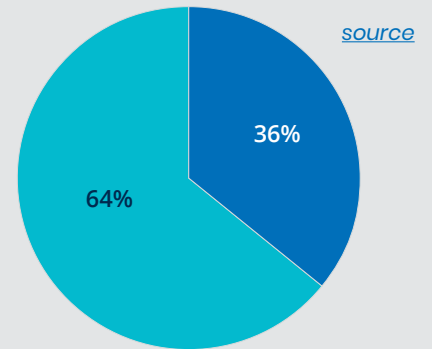## What do we know about CTE students?

In 2017–18, over 8.8 million high school students, approximately half of all high school students, enrolled in at least one career and technical education (CTE) course. Roughly 44% of CTE students are known as a CTE concentrator; these students completed at least two courses in a single CTE program of study.

According to a 2018 report, the national high school graduation rate of CTE concentrators is 93% and over 91% of high school students completing at least 2 CTE courses enroll in postsecondary education after graduation.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and STEM-related clusters (Health Sciences, Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; and Information Technology) were taken by over 36% of CTE concentrators in 2017–18. The top areas for students concentrating their CTE studies in one Career Cluster are reflected in the graph.
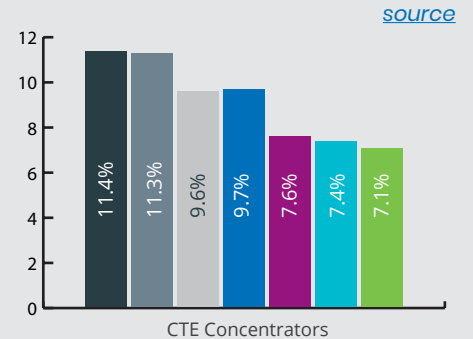
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Distribution of Funds

source

- 36%
- 64%

■ Postsecondary Education Programs

■ Secondary and Middle Grades (5–8) Education Programs

2017–18 Top CTE Clusters For Concentrators

source

Bar	Value
Health Sciences	11.4%
Arts, Audio-Visual, and Communications	11.3%
Business, Management, and Administration	9.6%
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	9.7%
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	7.6%
Information Technology	7.4%
Human Services	7.1%

CTE Concentrators

- ■ Health Sciences
- ■ Arts, Audio-Visual, and Communications
- □ Business, Management, and Administration
- ■ Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- ■ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- ■ Information Technology
- ■ Human Services

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