

CTE: THE KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. education and training sector:

Employs more than **9.2M** individuals¹

Educates **71M** students²

Contributes **\$251B** to U.S. GDP³

What is the pathway to these fulfilling and essential careers?

Career and Technical Education!



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Education and Training

Supporting the learning needs of youth and adult students, the education and training sector:

- includes early childhood services and education, the K-12 system, postsecondary education and adult workforce training
- requires dedicated and highly skilled individuals
- is essential to educating the public and improving life outcomes⁴

What jobs are available in education and training?

The average educator impacts 3,000 learners during their career, highlighting the U.S. education and training sector's critical role in shaping society.⁵ The sector will be necessary to address learning gaps resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, reskill adult learners and expand access to high-quality child-related care and services. As a result, educators are in high demand, with two-thirds of school district leaders reporting shortages, particularly for special education teachers.⁶ States, school districts and colleges also face localized shortages in specific content areas, including STEM and CTE fields.⁷ Moreover, employment in education and training is expected to grow, adding 920,500 new jobs by 2030.⁸ The fastest-growing occupations in this sector include jobs for preschool educators, which are expected to grow by 18% through 2030,⁹ and jobs for postsecondary instructors and career counselors and advisers, which are projected to increase by 12% and 11%, respectively, during the same time frame.¹⁰

Occupations in education and training can pay at or above the national median wage, including many jobs for bachelor's and master's degree holders as well as a number of jobs that require some postsecondary education but less than a bachelor's degree. For instance, tutors earn almost \$41,000¹¹ per year, on average, while CTE instructors – some of whom combine education below the bachelor's degree level with relevant work experience – earn about \$59,000¹² annually.

Most occupations in this sector require state licensure and a postsecondary credential, although a number of states offer alternative or preliminary certification with structured professional development plans for individuals without a bachelor's degree. Additionally, individuals can pursue or advance in certain occupations by earning credentials such as Certified Career Services Provider™ and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification or by completing exams like the ParaPro Assessment. These and other credentials verify technical, academic and employability skills to educate learners, care for children, design lesson plans, manage educational institutions, provide career and academic guidance, and more. The following are just a few of the occupations available in education and training:

- paraprofessionals and paraeducators
- child care professionals and directors
- administrators
- school nurses
- P-12 instructors
- English as a second language (ESL) instructors
- school social workers
- early interventionists and early childhood special educators

Endnotes

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How does CTE prepare the education and training workforce?

Career and technical education prepares high school, postsecondary and adult students for careers in education and training through:

- the national Career Clusters® Framework – including Career Clusters and pathways in Education and Training and in Human Services – which outlines course progressions that help students explore career options and prepare for college and career success
- courses aligned with the National Family and Consumer Sciences Education standards in teaching, instructional technology, child development and more, all integrated with rigorous academics
- work-based learning experiences, like student field experiences teaching elementary, secondary and special education learners through the Teacher Academy at Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career-Tech Center in Traverse City, Michigan¹³
- career and technical student organization experiences, such as Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and SkillsUSA competitive events in lesson planning, technology in teaching and more
- opportunities to earn credentials that recognize teaching skills in specific content areas, such as professional certifications from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

What are promising programs in education and training?

The **Education Career Academy at Millard Public Schools** in Omaha, Nebraska, lays the groundwork for high school juniors and seniors to pursue a teaching career. The academy, which received Advance CTE's Excellence in Action Award in 2017, offers foundational coursework in education and courses in specific content areas with local educator shortages as well as the opportunity to participate in a student organization, Educators Rising, where academy learners often serve in state leadership roles.¹⁴ In addition, work-based learning experiences allow academy students to explore different age groups and teaching settings, such as shadowing teachers and tutoring youth in elementary and middle schools. During their senior year, students are placed in classrooms to complete a 108-hour practicum where they work with teachers and parents, assist students, and build a portfolio of lesson plans. Students can receive up to 30 college credits at Metropolitan Community College and the University of Nebraska–Omaha, and many Omaha schools have hired academy graduates.

Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) in Gardner, Massachusetts, offers a variety of early childhood education programs that provide valuable field experience and access to in-demand credentials. The **Child Development Associate** program prepares students to work in preschools and child care centers by completing 120 hours of supervised training, supported by a video-based classroom observation tool that allows teachers in training to see their own performance.¹⁵ Program completers earn the Child Development Associate® certification and are qualified to work as Early Education and Care Lead Teachers in Massachusetts. In addition, completers can apply their credits toward MWCC's **Associate in Early Childhood Education** program, which offers unique access to the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education, where students can observe two preschool classrooms and complete 150 hours of field work each semester. Approximately 90% of students gain employment,¹⁶ and learners can apply their credits toward a bachelor's degree at Fitchburg State University.¹⁷