Arizona Fact Sheet

CTE State Overview

At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, charter schools or through the 14 Joint Technical Education Districts (JTEDs), which include over 215 high school sites. JTEDs are formed when two or more school districts, with the approval of local voters and the state Department of Education, come together to form a new district that can deliver a higher level of career and technical education to students it serves than the individual districts could provide on their own.

At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through 10 community college districts. Each community college district is fully autonomous with its own governing board and is funded individually by the state and with Perkins funds.

Enrollment Data
(OCTAE 2013-2014)

Secondary: 94,269
Postsecondary: 123,515

Student Performance
(OCTAE 2013-2014)

98 percent of CTE high school students graduated
97 percent met performance goals for reading/language arts and 89 percent for mathematics
82 percent met performance goals for technical skills
71 percent of CTE postsecondary students remained enrolled or transferred to another institution

Perkins Funding
(OCTAE)

Arizona received $25,325,281 for Fiscal Year 2015, $400,000 more than in 2014 and $1.6 million less than in 2010.

CTE Program Excellence

At Desert View High School in the Sunnyside Unified School District, Tucson, the Precision Machining/Mechanical Drafting program in the iSTEM College and Career Academy is gaining local, state, national and international recognition. The program was recently added to the Manufacturing Institute’s “M List” and “Best Practices” spotlight for program excellence. It is supported by companies in the Southern Arizona Manufacturing Partnership, who provide paid internships as well as curricular guidance and donations. The program recently added a Quality Control Room that includes 10 CNC programming simulators, two 3-D printers and a virtual reality display system. Work-based learning is provided through a school-based manufacturing enterprise. Last year, students earned 83 industry certifications from Solidworks and the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, and program concentrators had a 100% graduation rate. In spring 2016, students will be able to test for MasterCAM certifications. Students also benefit from embedded high school math credit and up to 12 college credits from Pima Community College (PCC). Most of the students in the program go on to PCC, the University of Arizona and/or into the local manufacturing industry. (Profile provided by ACTE AZ)

Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC), an ACTE Educational Institution Member, is one of Arizona’s leading JTEDs, providing CTE programs and services to 12 member school districts in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. West-MEC incorporates classroom and hands-on instruction, career-based experiences and leadership development to equip students with valuable skills for the job market. It enhances the quality of CTE programs on 46 high school campuses by providing funding for innovative equipment, technology and instructor training. Students may also attend CTE programs in many fields, including aviation technology, coding, energy and industrial technology, fire science, general construction, IT security, public safety and security, medium heavy diesel technology, pharmacy technician, precision manufacturing and veterinary sciences, offered at facilities operated by West-MEC and its community college and business partners. Accredited as a high-quality school system by AdvancEd, West-MEC is also accredited for adult education through the Commission on Occupational Education. The district has won the ACTE Image Award for bringing positive attention to CTE. Several district instructors and students have been recognized locally and nationally for achievements in CTE. In summer 2012, West-MEC hosted a visit from TIME Magazine columnist Joe Klein at its aviation technology campus, one of only a few programs of this kind in the nation. After his visit, Klein was off to the Navajo nation to explore thriving programs in agricultural science and veterinary science, empowering Navajo students to discover career success. (Profile provided by ACTE AZ)