Career and Technical Education in Arizona

- 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.

Exemplary CTE Programs in Arizona

- The Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) Program is a certified Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)–14 CFR Part 147 school, with 1,925 instructional hours. The program is in its seventh year, and has over 300 high school student completers. Students work through identical curriculum and technical assessments as adult college or trade school students. Program completers fulfill the federal requirements for FAA certification exams; upon successful completion of these exams, applicants may obtain Airframe and/or Powerplant (A&P) Mechanic Certificates. West-MEC was selected to partner with Delta Airlines, which will serve as a resource for continuous improvement of the AMT program by supplying training tools, materials and professional development. In addition, students may take four online courses through Eastern New Mexico University–Roswell. Upon completion of their FAA required testing, these students receive 52 college credits. In concert with these online classes, these students earn an Associate of Applied Science in AMT. Completers of the West-MEC AMT program have excellent career opportunities in the fields of general, corporate, military and commercial aviation, and have been hired by companies such as Mesa Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Honeywell, Sunstate Aviation, Aero Cell, Bombardier, Airworthy Aerospace and Aeroguard Flight Training Academy. (Information from West-MEC)
- The Pima JTED Central Campus Healthcare Professions Program is dedicated to preparing students for success in health careers. Students enter the program during their sophomore or junior year, and continue on a health career pathway for their senior year. After completion, they are prepared with the knowledge and technical and professional skills needed for a clinical or externship experience in the community. Each student finalizes their experience by testing for an industry-recognized certification while preparing to enter the workforce as a Certified Caregiver, Licensed Nursing Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician, Medical Assistant or a Health Information Management Assistant. The program includes solid partnerships with the healthcare industry in the region as well as Pima Community College, The University of Arizona and Arizona @ Work. Under the direction of Program Manager Beth Francis and her team of 10 healthcare professionals, Pima JTED is proud to complete over 200 new skilled professionals each year prepared to fill the growing needs of the healthcare sector in Southern Arizona. (Information from Pima JTED)

In school year 2015-2016:
- 99 percent of Arizona CTE high school students graduated
- 81 percent met performance goals for mathematics
- 90 percent of Arizona CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills

In Fiscal Year 2016, Arizona received $25,810,035 in federal Perkins funding—$428,000 more than in 2015 and about $1.1 million less than in 2010.