

South Dakota Career & Technical Education

Preparing Students for College and Careers

What is Career & Technical Education?

In South Dakota Career & Technical Education (CTE) refers to middle and high school students enrolled in programs leading to careers in such areas as engineering, construction, health and agriculture. Emphasis is on career exploration and developing skills and knowledge for work to meet the needs of South Dakota's in-demand industries. **There are 30,862 CTE students— 47.3% percent of all students in grades 7-12 in the state.**

In South Dakota, **over 750 CTE programs** are offered in 151 public, private and tribal schools districts across sixteen Career Clusters®.

Why is CTE important?

South Dakota CTE maximizes student learning with real-world knowledge and skills. CTE includes challenging academic and technical content and fosters strong relationships with industry and higher education. In addition to meeting South Dakota graduation requirements, students develop leadership skills and earn **industry certifications and dual credit** in their fields of interest.

- 1,316 students took a dual credit technical course at one of the State's four technical institutes in 2017-18
- 3,121 students earned a National Career Readiness Certification at a Silver, Gold or Platinum level in 2017-18
- 7,108 students participated in a Career & Technical Student Organization, including DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, and SkillsUSA in 2017-18



What proves the value of CTE?

Consider these three pieces of data about students who have taken **two or more credits** of Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses during their high school career.



95% of all CTE students graduate from high school within four years.



89% of Native American CTE students graduate from high school within four years.

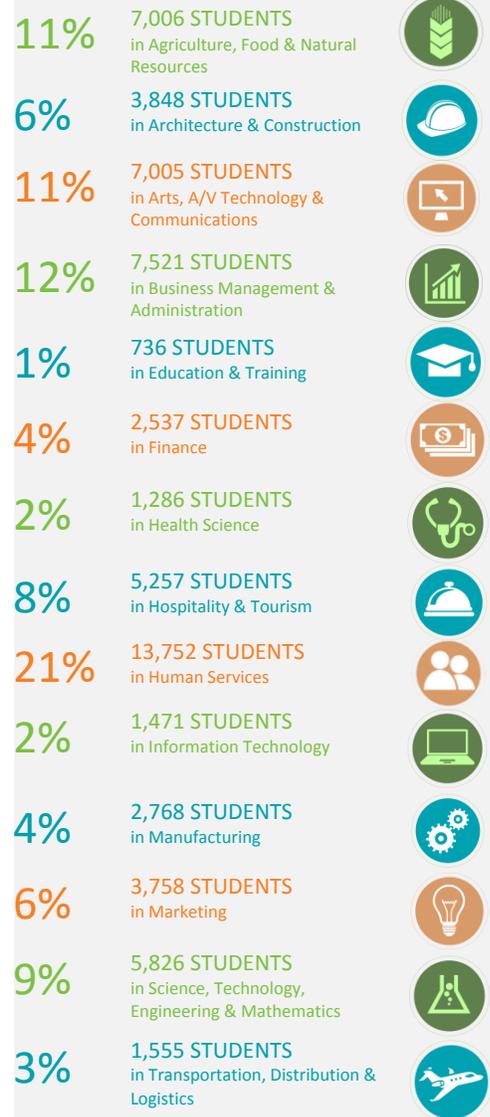


80% of CTE students pursue postsecondary education.

Where can you find South Dakota CTE?

All South Dakota students have access to CTE, including **in-person** courses at their local school, **online** through the South Dakota Virtual School, and through **dual credit** at the State's technical institutes. Additionally, seven districts are providing students greater access to CTE courses through **regional collaboration**. These districts collaborate to share costs and provide students a wider range of course options that facilitate more comprehensive career exploration and access to a larger network of business partners.

Enrollment by Career Cluster*



*SY17-18 data reflects duplicate numbers as some students take classes in more than one career field

Enrollment by Grade Level

