



Kentucky Workforce Readiness: Preparing the Next Generation Workforce

Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity

Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE)
September 16, 2026



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

KENTUCKY CTE
EMPOWERED
Today's Career and Technical Education

Why CTE Matters



Kentucky Career & Technical Education Programs

Advanced Manufacturing

Career pathways in additive manufacturing, CNC operation, computer-aided design, industrial maintenance, machining, metal fabrication, welding, wood manufacturing, and more.



Agricultural Education

Career pathways in agribusiness, agricultural power & technical systems, animal science, environmental science & natural resources, food science & processing, plant science, and more.



Business and Marketing

Career pathways in accounting, administrative support, e-commerce, financial services, management & entrepreneurship, marketing, retail, supply chain management, and more.



Computer Science

Career pathways in computer programming, cybersecurity, data science, digital design & game development, information support, network administration, network security, and more.



Construction Technology

Career pathways in carpentry, construction engineering, electrical, environmental control systems (HVAC), heavy equipment, masonry, plumbing, TRACK apprenticeships, and more.



Education and Training

A teaching and learning pathway, plus a TRACK youth apprenticeship option, designed to prepare students to become Kentucky's future educators.



Engineering Technology

Career pathways in aerospace engineering, automation engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, energy management, engineering design, mechanical engineering, and more.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Career pathways in consumer & family services, culinary & food services, early childhood education, fashion & interior design, food science & dietetics, hospitality & tourism, and more.



Healthcare

Career pathways in allied health, biomedical sciences, dental assisting, EKG, emergency medical technology, medical assisting, pharmacy, phlebotomy, pre-nursing, and more.



Government

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps pathways in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.



Law and Public Safety

Career pathways in fire science & firefighting, law enforcement, pre-law studies, and TRACK youth apprenticeship.



Media Arts

Career pathways in cinematography & video production, graphic design, and interactive media.



Transportation

Career pathways in aircraft maintenance, automotive engineering, automotive service & repair, collision repair, diesel/medium-heavy truck technology, flight & aeronautics, and more.



KENTUCKY CTE
EMPOWERED
Today's Career and Technical Education

Opportunities

- Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)
- Dual credit
- End-of Program Assessments (EOPs) for articulated credit
- Industry-recognized certifications
- Work-based learning
 - Cooperative Learning Experiences
 - Apprenticeships
 - TRACK
 - Internships
 - Mentoring
 - Job Shadowing
 - School-based Enterprises
 - Service Learning
 - Entrepreneurship



Progress and Achievements



CTE Student Participation

2022-2023

123,372

2023-2024

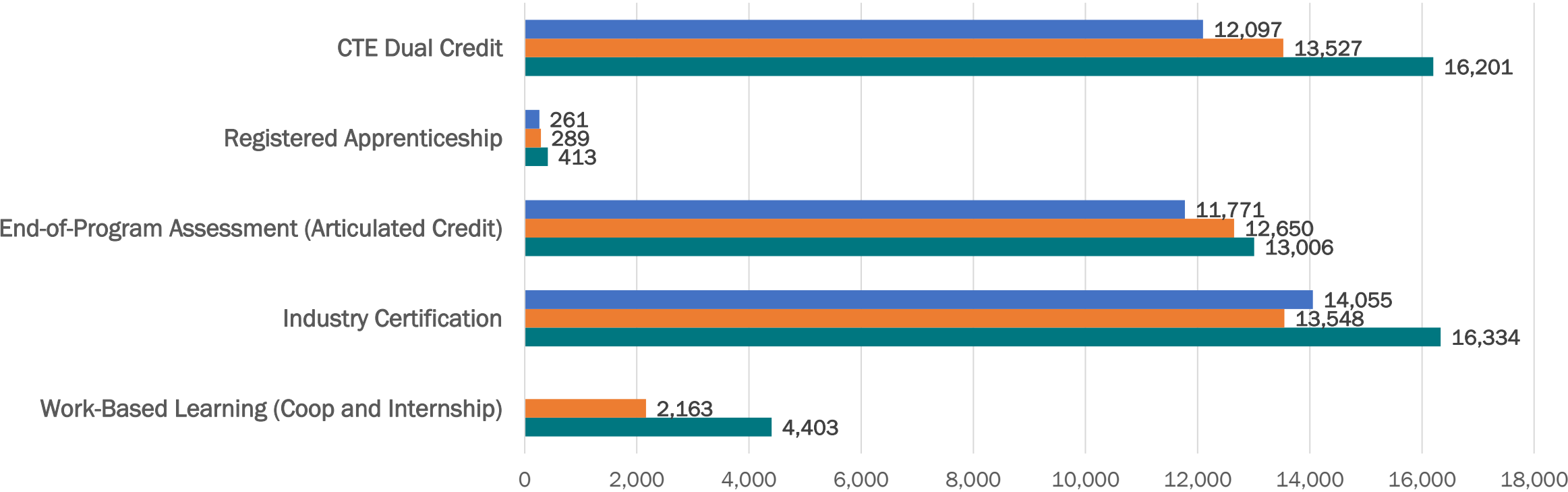
143,415

2024-2025

145,369

Career Readiness by Numbers

(12th-grade graduating cohort)



	Work-Based Learning (Coop and Internship)	Industry Certification	End-of-Program Assessment (Articulated Credit)	Registered Apprenticeship	CTE Dual Credit
2022-2023		14,055	11,771	261	12,097
2023-2024	2,163	13,548	12,650	289	13,527
2024-2025	4,403	16,334	13,006	413	16,201

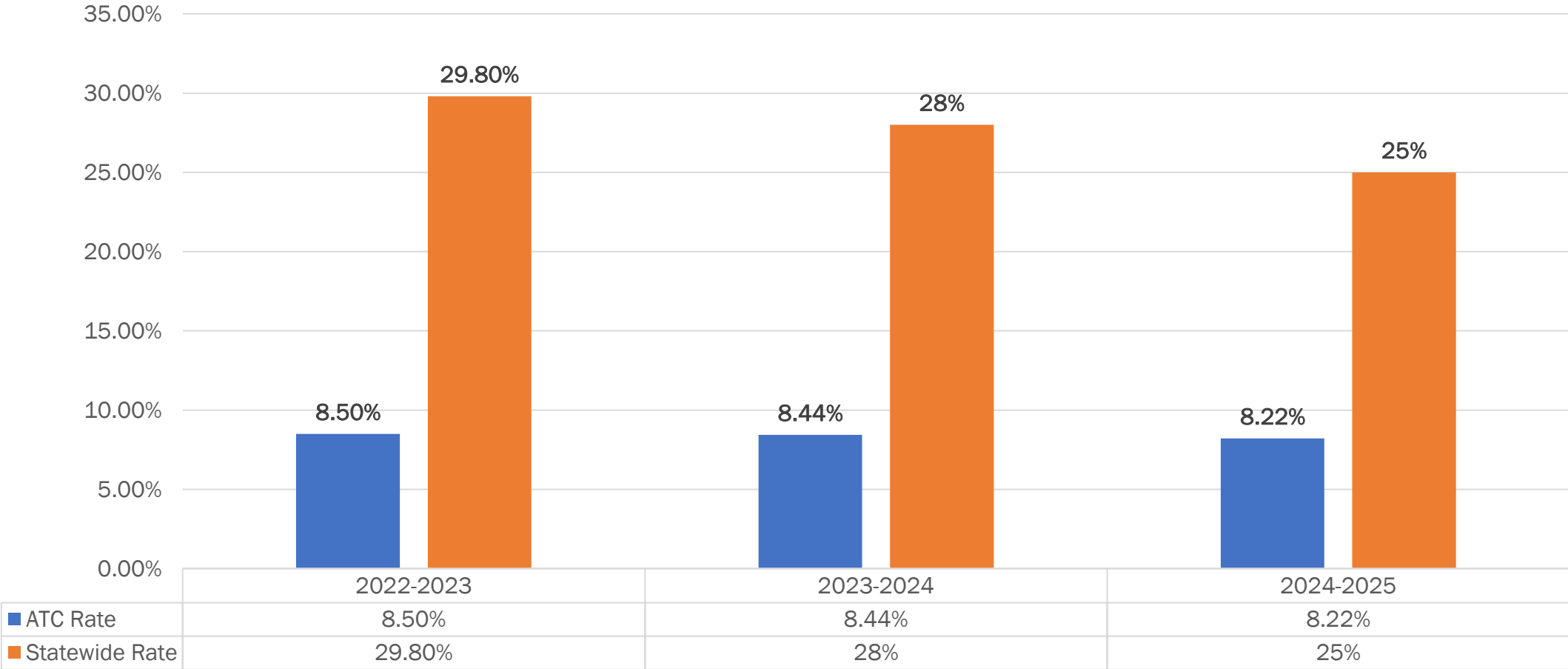
Business & Industry Partnerships

- Provide feedback for pathway curriculum through Business and Education Advisory Teams (BEATs)
- Provide recommendations for local and regional needs for Perkins eligible schools through programmatic advisory teams
- Provide insights for emerging technologies at the local level
- Work in tandem with CTE to build Kentucky's workforce

Current Challenges

- Reluctance to hire youth
- Teacher shortages/pay scales
- Finding the correct career path
- Unintentional dual credit
- Continued equitable funding
- Chronic absenteeism

ATC Chronic Absenteeism



■ ATC Rate ■ Statewide Rate

Opportunities Moving Forward

- Increase engagement of business and industry partners
- CTE occupation-based teacher certification revisions
- CTE salary workgroup
- Middle school exploration
- Potential employer hiring incentives
 - **Financial and/or tax incentives** provided to employer for participation in apprenticeships, cooperative learning experiences, and paid internships leading to full-time employment

Questions?