

Launching Life-Ready Graduates

The Power of CTE Credentials

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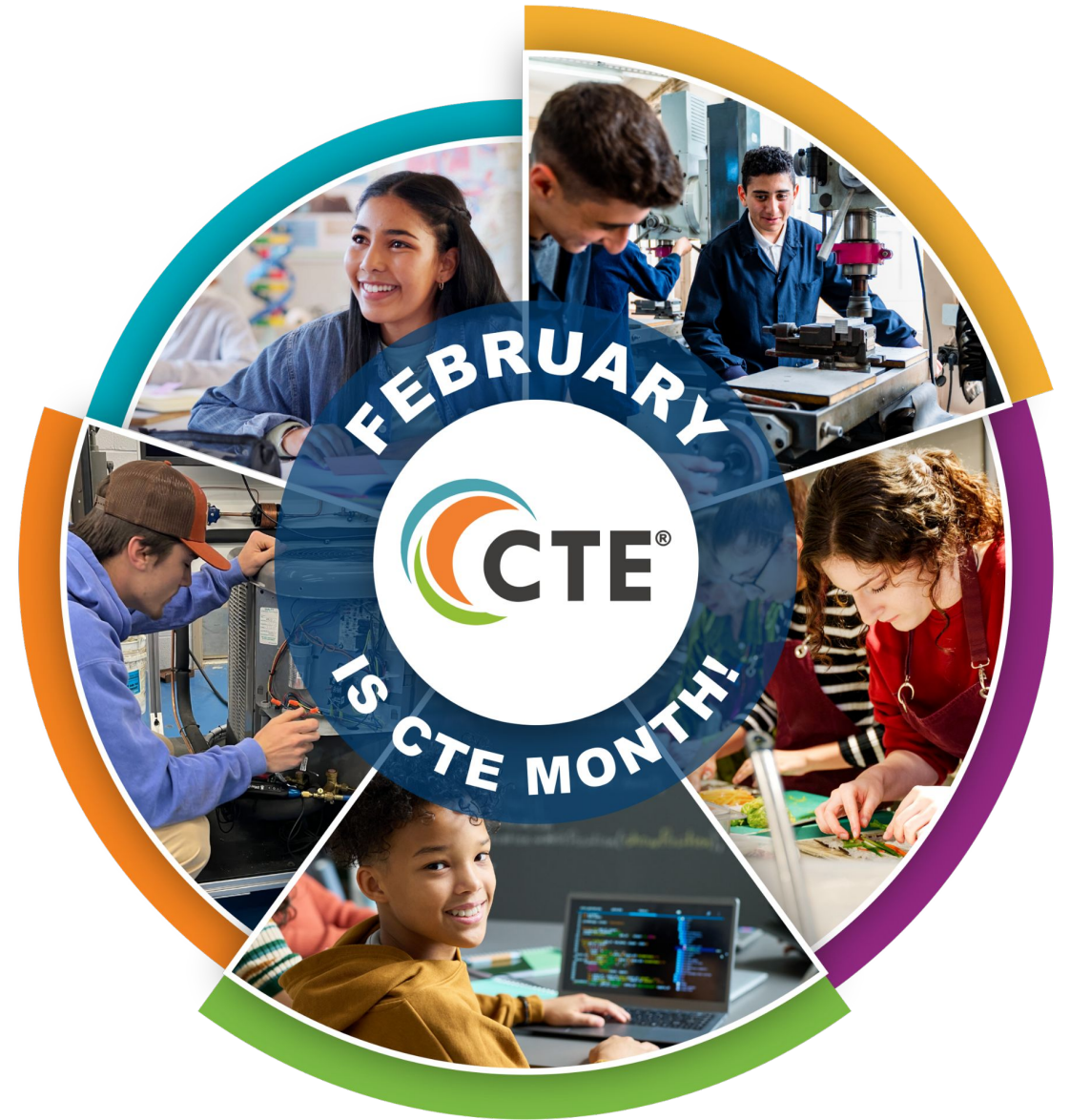
February 2026

Desired Outcomes

Provide an overview of Career and Technical Education in North Carolina, including Perkins funding, pathways, and statewide scale.

Present 2024–2025 CTE credential attainment data, highlighting trends, equity considerations, and alignment to workforce credentials.

Recognize district excellence and growth in credential attainment, reinforcing CTE's role in preparing life-ready graduates.



ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL **EXCELLENCE**



**Prepare Each Student
for Their Next Phase
in Life**

Focus Area 3 | Promote Excellence for All

ACTION 3

Support PSUs in **expanding access to rigorous pathways**, such as AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge International, Career and College Promise (CCP), credentialed Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), to **ensure every student takes and passes a college level and career connected course.** *(April 2026) [P1.F3.A1]*

“CTE credentials are powerful, rigorous pathways **that launch life-ready graduates prepared for college, career, and what comes next.**”

North Carolina CTE Rising to #3 Nationwide

in Student Participation in CTE Courses

2022-2023

548,010 Students

Participated in CTE Courses

Ranked #4

2023-2024
550,918
Students

Participated in CTE Courses

Ranked #3



Among all states and Washington, D.C.

Source: Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (CTE.ed.gov)

#2 NATIONWIDE

36.1%

of all K-12 Students
in NC participated in
a **CTE course**

Among all states and Washington, D.C.
Source: Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (CTE.ed.gov)

Only one state ranks higher

Nebraska 42.1% of all K-12 Students participated in a CTE Course

Overview of Perkins and CTE



Perkins Legislation



Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century (Perkins V)



Effective **July 1, 2020**



Consolidated Annual Report



Transition to DOL



Perkins VI - Pending

Perkins Legislation

Section 2 Purpose:

To develop more fully the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary students who elect to enroll in CTE programs.

Perkins V has a strong focus on career awareness, career exploration, and career development opportunities.

Grants

Operational

- (017) – Perkins Funding (Split with NCCCS) – **\$49m** /annually
- (013) – State Funded Perkins MOEs — **\$580m**
- (014) – State Program Support Funding — **\$25m**
- (083) – State Credential Funding — **\$15.8m** /annually

Specialty

- (PRC-023) – CTE Modernization and Expansion — **\$2m**
- (PRC-065) – Coding and Mobile App Development — **\$800k**
- (PRC-079) – Education Workforce and Innovation — **\$3.17m**
- (PRC-253) – Health Career Promotion — **\$1m**
- (PRC-256) – CTE Grants for Home Building Programs – **\$200k**



CTE in North Carolina



The Program

- **14** Career Clusters
- **70+** Career Pathway Options (not including LCO)
- **Course Inventory**
- **Course Management System**



The People

- Approximately **7,000** CTE secondary educators
- Over **70** Professional Development engagements annually
- Approximately **900,000** seats filled by CTE students annually!



The Progress

- Over **65,000** new CTE concentrators annually
- Over **380,000** individual credentials earned '24-'25
- Over **98%** of CTE concentrators graduate on time

The Leadership and Team are CRITICAL!

Career Clusters

- **Revised 2024**
- **Led by Advance CTE and ACTE**
- **National Advisory Committee**
- **Utilized Industry Profiles**
 - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
 - Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes
 - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
 - BLS Industry-occupation Matrix
- **Industry Advisory Groups**
- **Educator focus group**
- **National Implementation Survey**

Career Clusters and Pathways



BUILDING & MOVING

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

- Aerospace Engineering
- Automated Materials Joining
- Drafting Engineering
- Engineering
- Integrated Production Technologies
- Metals Manufacturing
- Technology Engineering and Design

CONSTRUCTION

- Carpentry
- Drafting Architectural
- Electrical Trades
- HVACR
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Woodworking

SUPPLY CHAIN AND TRANSPORTATION

- Automotive Body Repair
- Automotive Service
- Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management



CARING FOR COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION

- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Teaching/Training

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Biomedical Technology
- Biotechnology Research and Development
- Counseling and Mental Health
- Food and Nutrition
- Health Informatics
- Healthcare Professional

PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY

- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Firefighter Technology
- Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC)
- Law and Justice
- Public Safety



CONNECTING & SUPPORTING SUCCESS*

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE*

- AP Computer Science
- CIE Computer Science
- Cisco Network Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science Principles
- Data Science
- Network Administration
- Network Security
- Python Programming
- Robotics
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems

MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP*

- Business Ethics and Law
- Entrepreneurship
- General Management
- Office Administration
- Project Management

MARKETING AND SALES*

- Marketing Management
- Sales
- Sport and Event Marketing



CREATING & EXPERIENCING

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND DESIGN

- 3D Modeling and Animation
- Adobe Graphic Design
- Adobe Video Design
- Fashion Merchandising
- Fashion and Textile Design
- Game Art Design
- Interior Design

HOSPITALITY, EVENTS, AND TOURISM

- Culinary Arts Application
- Culinary Arts Internship
- Hospitality and Tourism Management



CULTIVATING RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE

- Animal Science
- Equine Science
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural, and Technical Systems
- Sustainable Agriculture

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Clean Energy Technology
- Energy and Power
- Innovations in Science and Technology
- Natural Resources
- Solar Photovoltaics



CULTIVATING RESOURCES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Accounting
- Economics
- Financial Planning

*CROSS-CUTTING CLUSTERS:

denote careers that overlap in all industries, highlighting the versatile and interconnected nature of today's workforce. These careers can stand on their own or be contextualized in each cluster. They emphasize the need for adaptability in navigating the modern economy.

NOTE:

CTE Career Clusters and Pathways are listed in alphabetical order under each Cluster Grouping.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

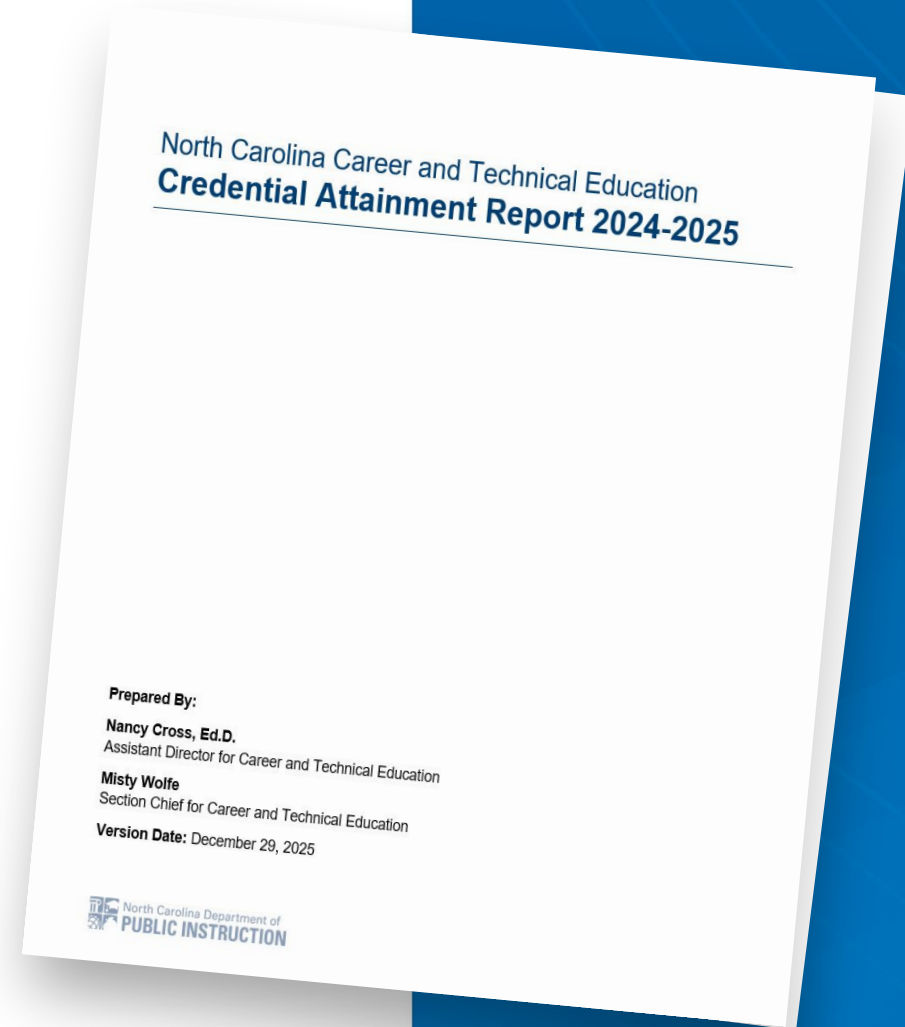


Career and Technical Education 2024-2025 Credential Report



A Tool for Improvement

- Individual Credentials
 - Combined Credentials
- Tier Structure
- Connection to NC Workforce Credential Council Credentials
- Trend Data
- Access and Equity



“In 2024, 40.4% of civilian workers were required to have a credential.”

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

74.5% of graduates who are CTE Concentrators earned an industry-recognized credential in their pathway of concentration.

Individual to Combined Crosswalk

Table 2. 2024-2025 Individual to Combined Credentials Crosswalk and Attainment

Course	Individual Credential Name	Individual Credentials Earned	Combined Credential Name	Combined Credentials Earned
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Attitude)	5,799	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Teamwork)	6,224	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Communication)	6,332	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Critical Thinking)	5,489	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Interpersonal/Social Skills)	6,170	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632
ED45 – Career Management	CCWR – Career Management (Media Rules)	6,288	Conover Credential Workplace Readiness Job Readiness	4,632

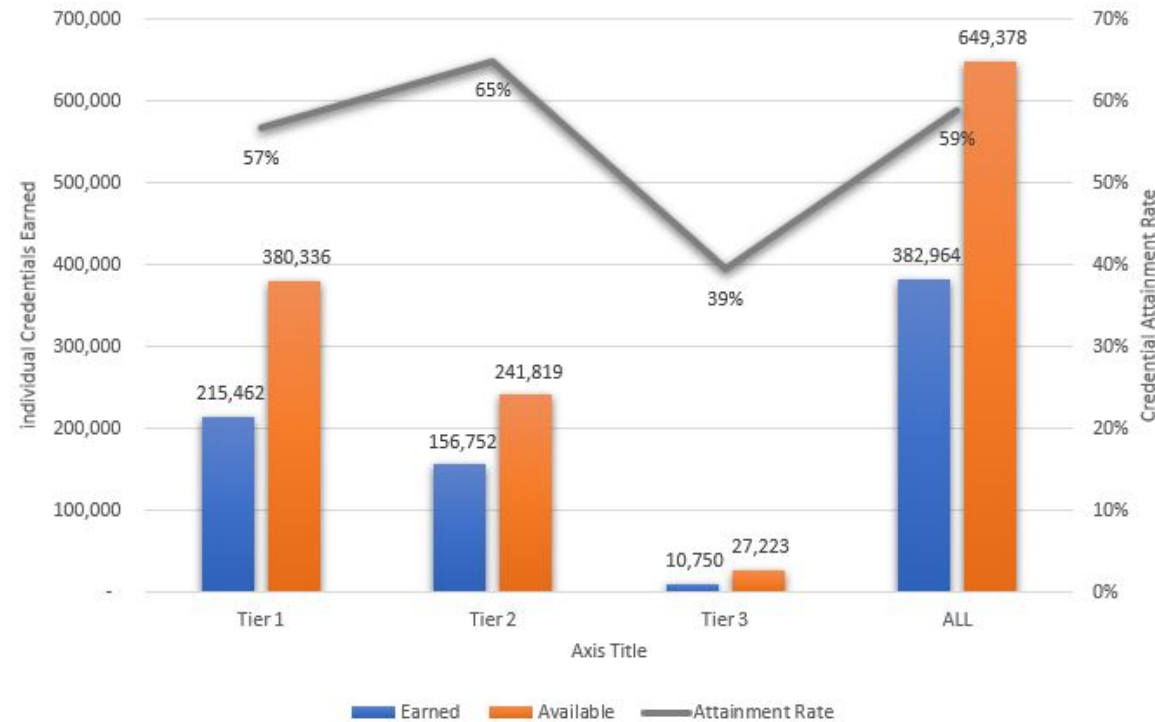
Tier Structure Crosswalk

Table 3. 2024-2025 Credentials Available by Tier

Credential Tier	Program Area	Course	Credential Name
1	Agricultural Education	AA21 – Animal Science I	Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)
1	Agricultural Education	AA22 – Animal Science II – Food Animal	North Carolina Beef Quality Assurance
1	Agricultural Education	AA22 – Animal Science II – Food Animal	National Beef Quality Assurance Cow/Calf Certification
1	Agricultural Education	AL11 – Agricultural Production I	North Carolina Beef Quality Assurance
1	Agricultural Education	AL11 – Agricultural Production I	Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)
1	Agricultural Education	AL12 – Agricultural Production II	North Carolina Beef Quality Assurance
1	Agricultural Education	AL12 – Agricultural Production II	Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Combined Credentials with Credential Attainment Rate by Tiers

Chart 2. 2024-2025 Individual Credential Attainment by Tier



Connecting to NC Workforce Credentials

- For the 2024-2025 academic year, NC CTE students earned **70,182 credentials** that are aligned to the NCWFC credential list. **This represents an increase of 436** from the NCWFC credentials earned by NC CTE students in the previous academic year.
- North Carolina CTE **offers 56 of the approximately 182 NCWFC** credentials and **reported earned credentials across 50** of these credentials.



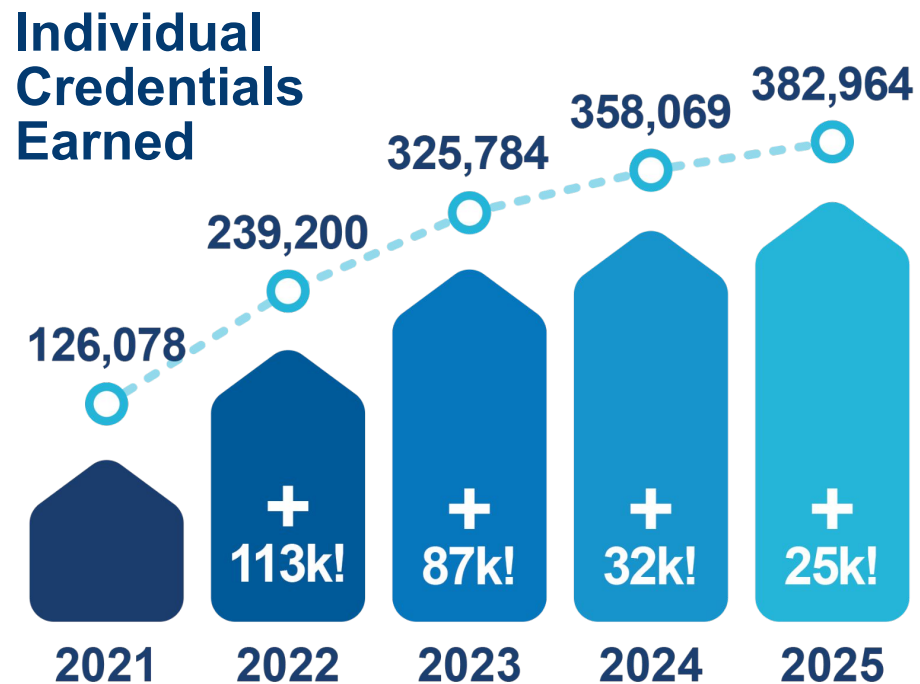
NCWFCC Credentials Earned by NCCTE Students

Table 7. NC Workforce Credentials and NC CTE Attainment

Career Cluster	NCWFC Level	Credential Name	NCCTE Earned	NCCTE Credential Tier
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Essential	Small Engine Repair	314	2
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Foundation	The American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Food Safety & Science Certification	60	2
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Foundation	Certified Veterinary Assistant	58	3
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Foundation	The Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications Certification	276	3
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Career	Autodesk Certified User AutoCAD	3,235	2

2020-2025 Credential Attainment

Chart 1. NC CTE Credential Attainment by Academic Year

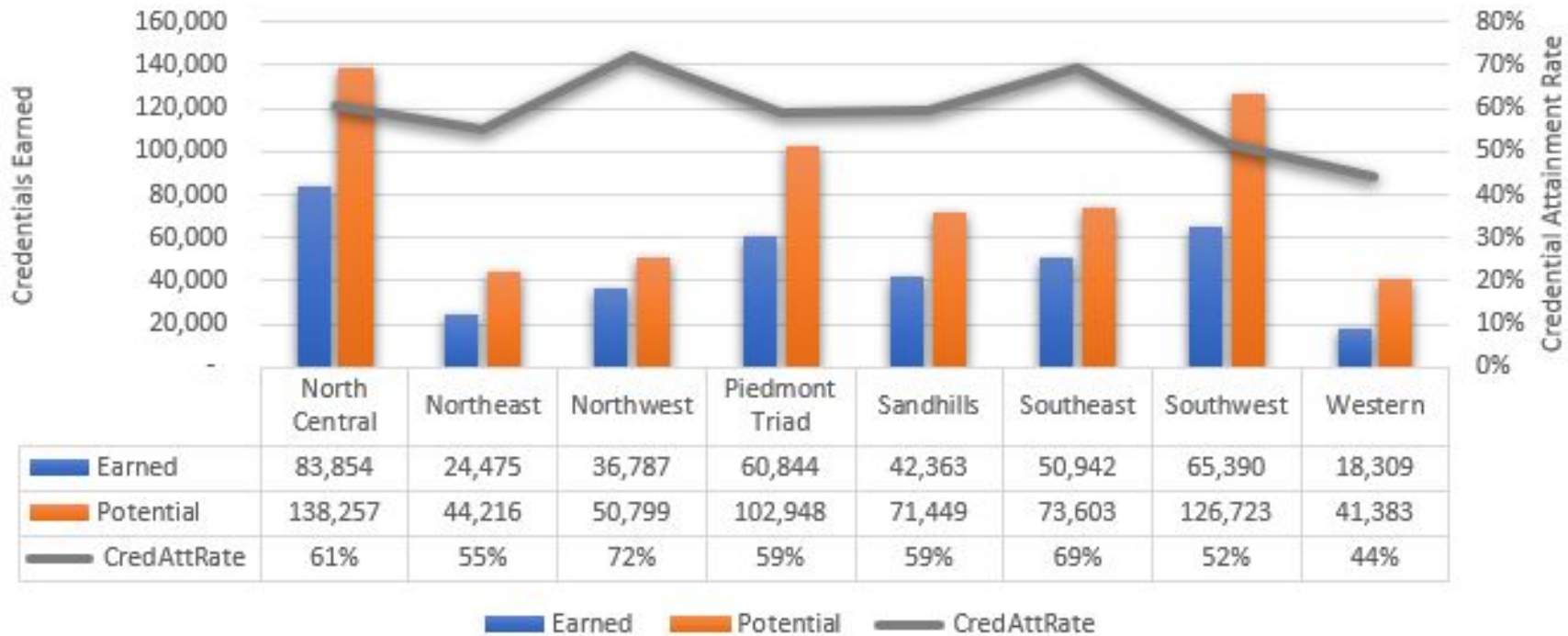


6.9%

Increase from
2024 to 2025

2024-2025 Credential Attainment by Region

Chart 1. NC CTE Credential Attainment by Academic Year



2024-2025 Highest Credential Attainment by Number

Table 8. 2023-2024 Highest Number of Earned Credentials

Public School Unit (PSU)	Region	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Wake County Schools (920)	North Central	32,630	29,424	28,135
Cumberland County Schools (260)	Sandhills	14,985	16,944	16,012
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (600)	Southwest	13,315	11,517	9,833
Union County Public Schools (900)	Southwest	12,854	13,161	12,985
Guilford County Schools (410)	Piedmont Triad	12,290	10,768	8,250
Onslow County Schools (670)	Southeast	11,226	9,390	5,925
Harnett County Schools (430)	North Central	11,121	9,470	8,769
Randolph County School System (760)	Piedmont Triad	9,377	7,369	8,342
Pitt County Schools (740)	Northeast	8,426	8,047	6,020
Davidson County Schools (290)	Piedmont Triad	8,090	7,100	8,893

CTE Credential Attainment Recognition

Highest Total
Number of CTE
Credentials Earned



Randolph County School System

9,377 Credentials
Earned

District Representatives

Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent

Dr. David Cross, Director of Career & Technical Education

Stephanie Adams, Instructional Management Coordinator

2024-2025 Highest Credential Attainment Rates

Table 9. 2023-2024 Highest Credential Attainment Rate

Public School Unit (PSU)	Region	Earned	Potential	Attainment Rate
Transylvania County Schools (880)	Western	2,168	2,428	89.29%
Pender County Schools (710)	Southeast	7,427	8,413	88.28%
Elkin City Schools (861)	Piedmont Triad	340	388	87.63%
Mitchell County Schools (610)	Northwest	1,420	1,623	87.49%
Jones County Schools (520)	Southeast	818	941	86.93%
Burke County Schools (120)	Northwest	6,959	8,011	86.87%
Yancey County Schools (995)	Northwest	1,217	1,431	85.05%
Gates County Schools (370)	Northeast	568	676	84.02%
Dare County Schools (280)	Northeast	2,486	2,986	83.26%
Duplin County Schools (310)	Southeast	4,144	5,024	82.48%

CTE Credential Attainment Recognition

Highest CTE
Credential
Attainment Rate



**Pender
County Schools**

88.28% Credential
Attainment Rate

District Representative
Dr. Brad Breedlove, Superintendent

2024-2025 Most Improvement in Credential Attainment Rate

Rank	Public School Unit (PSU)	Improvement
1	Wayne County Public Schools (960)	51.7 PP
2	Graham County Schools (380)	48.1 PP
3	Lexington City Schools (291)	47.2 PP
4	Edgecombe County Public Schools (330)	31.3 PP
5	Hertford County Schools (460)	25.8 PP
6	Kannapolis City Schools (132)	25.0 PP
7	Catawba County Schools (180)	24.5 PP
8	Davidson County Schools (290)	24.4 PP
9	Tyrrell County Schools (890)	23.5 PP
10	Wilson County Schools (980)	23.3 PP

CTE Credential Attainment Recognition

Most Improved CTE
Credential
Attainment Rate
Year Over Year



Lexington City Schools

47.2 Percentage
Point Increase

District Representatives

Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Interim Superintendent

April Thompson, Senior Director of CTE

Dr. Jermaine Porter, Principal, Lexington Senior High School

Elizabeth Cross, Career Development Coordinator

Nathan Tongel, CIMC and SPC

Credential Attainment Data by Student Group

Table 4. 2024-2025 Individual Credential Attainment by Student Group

Student Group	NC Public Schools	NC CTE Enrollment	CTE Enrollment with Credential Opportunities	Overall Credential Attainment	Tier 1 Credential Attainment	Tier 2 Credential Attainment	Tier 3 Credential Attainment
Female	49%	45%	44%	36%	49%	18%	37%
Male	51%	55%	56%	64%	51%	82%	63%
Amerind	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asian	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	8%
Black	24%	25%	24%	19%	23%	14%	14%
Hispanic	23%	22%	22%	22%	21%	23%	14%
PacIsl	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or More	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
White	42%	42%	44%	50%	46%	55%	57%
ML	12%	8%	7%	7%	6%	8%	3%
EDS	50%	47%	47%	47%	47%	47%	33%
SWD	13%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	5%

Credential Attainment Data by Student Group – Tier 2

Table 5b. Tier 2 Credential Attainment Trend Data by Student Group

Student Group	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Comparison Population 2024-2025
Female	34%	18%	18%	44%
Male	66%	82%	82%	56%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asian	4%	2%	2%	3%
Black	14%	13%	14%	24%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	22%	23%	22%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or More Races	5%	4%	4%	5%
White	58%	57%	55%	44%
Multilingual Learner	NA	NA	8%	7%
Economically Disadvantaged	NA	NA	47%	47%
Students with Disabilities	NA	NA	9%	8%

Credential Attainment Data by Student Group – Tier 3

Table 5c. Tier 3 Credential Attainment Trend Data by Student Group

Student Group	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Comparison Population 2024-2025
Female	38%	36%	37%	44%
Male	62%	64%	63%	56%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%	1%	1%
Asian	9%	8%	8%	3%
Black	12%	14%	14%	24%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	16%	14%	22%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or More Races	4%	5%	5%	5%
White	60%	57%	57%	44%
Multilingual Learner	NA	NA	3%	7%
Economically Disadvantaged	NA	NA	33%	47%
Students with Disabilities	NA	NA	5%	8%

Priorities for Continuous Improvement

1

Continuing to improve the process for **vetting and approving** new credentials.

2

Supporting PSUs in the implementation of **existing** credential opportunities.

3

Continuing to increase the **efficiency and accuracy** in the process for collecting and reporting earned credentials.

4

Continuing to support PSUs to **interpret and utilize** credential data.

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Questions?

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