

Connecticut Technical Education and Career System



At a glance:

Executive Director: Dr. Alice Pritchard

Superintendent of Schools: Michael Crocco

Established: 2022

Statutory Authority: Con. Gen, Stat. § 10- 95

Number of employees: 1655

Recurring operating expenses: \$215,171,267

Organizational Structure

The Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) consists of 17 diploma granting technical high schools across the state, one technical education center, and two post graduate schools for airframe mechanics and aircraft maintenance technology. The school system serves approximately 11,612 students and offers 31 career technical education programs providing a direct employment pipeline for students and adult learners. CTECS serves over 1,500 adult education learners in aviation and apprenticeship programs.

The Executive Director is the agency head responsible for the system's operation, administration, and financial accountability. The Superintendent reports to the Executive Director and remains responsible for the operation and administration of the system's schools and all other educational matters.

The Executive Director and the Superintendent oversee CTECS administration, Legal, Labor Relations, Affirmative Action, Personnel, Communications, Legislative Affairs, Pupil Services, Fiscal Administration, Curriculum and Instruction, School Development and Accountability departments. Information Technology Services and Human Resources services are centralized and provided through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

Mission

We envision CTECS as the primary pipeline for Connecticut's skilled labor workforce. Through exemplary trade and academic programming, CTECS prepares trade-bound students to meet the skilled workforce needs in Connecticut.

Statutory Responsibility

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-95, CTECS is a public, state-wide system of technical education and career schools that offer full-time comprehensive secondary education, as well as part-time and evening, programs in vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education and training. The beneficiaries of CTECS are approximately 11,612 technical high school students as well as the approximate 1,500 adult learners who attend part-time and evening apprenticeship and extension programs.

Public Service

CTECS provides a unique and rigorous learning environment that: (1) ensures student academic success and trade/technology mastery; (2) prepares students for postsecondary education, including apprenticeships, and immediate productive employment; and (3) responds to employers' and industries' current and emerging global workforce needs and expectations through business/school partnerships.

CTECS consists of 17 high schools, one technical education center, and two postgraduate schools for aviation maintenance technicians. Out of the 169 Connecticut resident towns, 166 are represented within the CTECS student body.

CTECS operations are guided by four goals set forth in the Strategic Operating Plan. These goal areas encompass School Environment and Safety; Student Recruitment and Access; Trade and Academic Programming; and Talent Management. These goals, along with numerous educational benchmarks, are used to measure the effectiveness of CTECS programming. Additional benchmarks include state-mandated assessments, work-based learning (WBL) participation, and industry-recognized credentials earned.

WBL is offered as a way for students in grades 11 and 12 to gain real-world experience, work in teams, solve problems, and meet employers' expectations. Through partnerships with local companies, students work on real projects, gaining hands-on career development experience.

Unique to CTECS is the Student Workforce – a business run by students and faculty providing students with real projects for real customers here in Connecticut. A wide range of services are offered to the public at a fraction of the market price. The work helps prepare students for the transition from high school to the workforce.

Industry input is vital to providing quality and relevant Career and Technical Education programs that prepare students to enter the workforce. All trade areas hold program advisory committee meetings with local business and industry partners. Employers collaborate with educators to ensure CTECS curriculum, facilities, and credentials align with the latest industry trends and needs. Participation also allows employers to identify potential interns, pre-apprentices, or future employees who have been trained according to industry standards.

To provide the public with convenient access to information about CTECS programming and ease of communication, CTECS maintains websites for each of its 20 locations and central office. The websites contain directory information, program information, news, policies, and a contact form. Additionally, CTECS utilizes a school-to-home communication system to regularly update stakeholders. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn) is also utilized as a communication tool.

Achievements for fiscal year 2025-2026

Admissions

For the 2026 fall enrollment, CTECS lottery admissions process now institutes a computer-base system to ensure an unbiased, randomized selection process. Using this method for seating students allows CTECS to comply with all state and federal regulations, removes all subjectivity, and aligns with all Connecticut State Department of Education for public school choice practices. For the 2026-2027 school year, 6,879 students applied for admission with 3,290 accepted for enrollment. There are currently 3,442 applicants on the waiting list.

Student Outcomes

For the 2025-2026 school year CTECS graduated 2,578 students' system wide. Additionally, 7,713 different students in grades 10 through 12 were reported as earning one or more credentials in 2025-26. As well, 15,454 credentials were earned by students (including Bristol Tech students in grades 11 and 12 who earned 69 credentials) system wide.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Worked-Based learning allows students to work for an employer during their trade instructional time. Students not only receive credit toward their career technology but also get paid. Across the district, 1,305 CTECS students participated in Work Based Learning. Seven schools had a year-to-year increase of 10 or more participants. The ethnicity demographic placement counts were White 58%, Hispanic 31%, Black 6% and Multi-race 4%. Students were placed in Regular Employment (880), Pre-Apprenticeship (393), and Internships (32).

Student Competitions

CTECS Students Earn National Recognition at 2026 SkillsUSA Championships

Hundreds of CTECS students from the state's 17 technical high schools competed in the annual SkillsUSA State Conference on March 27, 2026. Held throughout several different locations, over 50 different on-the-job challenges in various categories were completed.

This year, 60 CTECS students qualified and moved on to the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference, held in June in Atlanta. The event brought together the top career and technical education (CTE) students from across the country to compete in more than 100 skilled trades, leadership, and technical contests. Representing Connecticut on the national stage, CTECS students competed in areas including electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts. Each contest is designed and judged by industry professionals to reflect real-world standards and skill requirements. This year, CTECS proudly celebrated seven gold medalists, which included both individual champions and a team honored in the Models of Excellence category. In addition, four students earned top five national placements, with another four placing in the top ten, and six more securing spots in the top twenty.

CTECS News and Events

Seal of Biliteracy

This past school year 362 CTECS students earned the Seal of Biliteracy, proving their fluency in English and a second language including Spanish, Turkish, Haitian, Creole, Hindi, Polish and Portuguese and entering the workforce with a bilingual edge.

CTECS, ReadyCT, and Electric Boat Partner to Support Students Entering Connecticut's Submarine Workforce

CTECS, ReadyCT, and General Dynamics Electric Boat partnered to strengthen Connecticut's submarine workforce pipeline by connecting high school seniors directly to career opportunities in the state's growing maritime and defense manufacturing industries. The Submarine Workforce Career Bridge program is currently underway at Norwich Technical High School and Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, where students are participating in career readiness programming, workforce development activities, and direct employment preparation tied to opportunities with Electric Boat and its supplier network.

Bombardier Debuts FastTrack Training Program in Hartford, Connecticut, and Expands Commitment to Workforce Development in the U.S.

Bombardier announced the start of its FastTrack program, an accelerated training pathway designed to help aircraft maintenance technicians obtain their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certification. Launched in collaboration with Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech), the program is now being expanded to Hartford,

Connecticut, in coordination with CT Aero Tech, which is part of CTECS. Through the FastTrack program, eligible candidates with a minimum of 18 months of hands-on industry experience in either Airframe or Powerplant disciplines – or 30 months of combined experience – can pursue FAA certification.

Participants will complete a two to four week accelerated classroom refresher focused on preparing for the FAA written examinations in General, Airframe, and Powerplant subjects. This will be followed by an additional two weeks of hands-on instruction to prepare participants for their practical evaluation.

CTECS Celebrates the Completion of Seven Solar Energy Projects Across the State

CTECS and Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS), along with partners at the Connecticut Green Bank (Green Bank) and Verogy, announced that seven solar energy projects at technical high schools across the state are nearing final completion. The seven projects, including rooftop and carport installations, will collectively deliver almost 4 megawatts of clean, renewable energy to the schools. Additionally, CTECS will save approximately \$5.4 million in energy costs over the lifetime of the panels while reducing carbon emissions by the equivalent of approximately 2,290 metric tons annually. The projects will also incorporate a workforce development component, offering both classroom and on-site learning opportunities for students at each school where projects are underway.

CT State and CTECS Sign Landmark Partnership Expanding College & Career Pathways for Tech Students

Connecticut State Community College (CT State) and CTECS officially signed a landmark partnership designed to strengthen pathways from technical high schools to community college. The agreement expands dual enrollment opportunities, aligns curricula, and prepares students for the high-demand employment needs of Connecticut's workforce. The partnership provides a seamless pipeline for students to earn college credit while still in high school through dual enrollment courses or concurrent enrollment courses. Students may also receive credit for prior learning through articulated high school courses, certifications, and industry-recognized credentials.

Governor Lamont and DAS Commissioner Gilman Announce Opening of the New Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport

Governor Ned Lamont announced the official grand opening of the new Bullard-Havens Technical High School, a state-of-the-art, 214,508-square-foot educational facility designed to prepare students for careers across 13 in-demand technical fields. The school, the most sustainable technical high school ever constructed in Connecticut, represents a major investment in Bridgeport, CTECS, and the state's future workforce.

Grasso Tech Event Highlights Partnership Between CTECS, Veolia, and State Leaders to Build Connecticut's Water Workforce

Governor Ned Lamont joined representatives from the CTECS, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and Veolia North America at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton to celebrate a successful public-private partnership preparing students for high-demand careers in the state's water and wastewater industries. Hosted in Grasso Tech's Bioscience and Environmental Technology trade classroom, the event showcased how Connecticut's technical high schools are helping address national

workforce shortages in water and wastewater management through hands-on, industry-aligned education.

Wolcott Tech Named National Model of Excellence by SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA named Oliver Wolcott Technical High School as a Model of Excellence for 2025. The annual program recognizes the exceptional integration of Personal, Workplace and Technical Skills into SkillsUSA chapter activities. The Models of Excellence program promotes the intentional learning of Personal, Workplace and Technical Skills as outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework for student development. Specific characteristics defined within each skill area benchmark student achievement and chapter programming.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

CTECS is committed to a policy of affirmative action/equal opportunity for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The CTECS does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, civil air patrol status, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, status as a victim of domestic violence, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

The Affirmative Action Office, under the direction of the Executive Director, is responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with a wide variety of federal and state laws and department policies relative to affirmative action and equal opportunity employment. This includes the investigation and resolution of discrimination complaints.

During the reporting period, the Department hired 102 employees 45 White males, 25 White females, 6 Black males, 6 Black females, 6 Hispanic males, 8 Hispanic females, 1 AAIANHNPI male, 1 AAIANHNPI females, 0 (2 or more races) male and 5 (2 or more races) females. There were 48 goal candidates hired: 4 White males, 20 White females, 2 Black males, 6 Black females, 3 Hispanic males, 8 Hispanic females, 2 (2 or more races) male and 2 (2 or more races) female.