

Lauderdale County School System CTE

Career and technical education (CTE) is aimed at directly preparing high school students for high-wage, high-demand careers after graduation. Covering many career fields, learning is both in the classroom and experiential hands-on. The capstone of CTE learning is the industry certifications earned by students and for some, college or technical learning beyond high school.

The high-wage, high-demand industries include:

- Health Science (CAN, CPCT, EKG)
- Construction Trades (welding, HVAC, electrical, and carpentry)
- Information Technology (Microsoft MTA, CompTIA, PC Pro, Security Pro, C-TECH)
- Manufacturing (NIMS, AC/DC, NCCER Mech, MCCER electrical)
- STEM (AutoCAD, Revit, Solid Edge, Autodesk Inventor)
- Transportation (ASE Maintenance and Repair, Diesel, ICAR, Briggs & Stratton)

“Across the state of Alabama, we offer programs in all 16 clusters and 79 pathways that are basically offered nationwide. So really, any career a student thinks that they may be interested in there may very well be a program offered at their high school,” Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Jimmy Hull recently told Bethany Davis, WSAF News. ([Alabama celebrates Career and Technical Education Month.](#))

In Lauderdale County Schools, students participate in CTE courses at their home schools or travel to the Allen Thornton Career and Technical Center. At ATCTC, students learn in 13 career clusters while earning stackable credentials such as Dual-Credit with Northwest Shoals Community College or OSHA and industry certifications. Students also participate in student organizations aligned with their career cluster options such as SkillsUSA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), HOSA (future health professionals), and more.

Statewide, more than 173,000 students in grades 9-12 are enrolled in Alabama CTE classes and programs. Dr. Eric Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent said, “Within the past five years, we have seen a 120 percent growth in workplace credentials earned, with 81.9 percent of students in Alabama currently enrolled in at least one CTE class.” In the [2019-2020 CTE Impact Report](#), it shows:

“Sixty-nine percent (69%) of Secondary CTE students had positive placement outcomes one year after graduation,” according to the Impact Report, “including military enlistment, employment, advanced technical training, and post-secondary enrollment.”

One of the state components of CTE is the Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG), which is active in Lauderdale County at Central High School, Lauderdale County High School, and Wilson High School. Statewide, there are 30 programs with 100 percent graduation rate of participating students, with 93 percent holding full-time jobs after graduation.

