

Berks Business Education Coalition Summit

October 14, 2025

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Affairs



PENNSYLVANIA
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHILDREN
A VOICE FOR KIDS SINCE 1992





Today's agenda:

- ▶ Update on state budget and legislative activity
- ▶ Update on federal budget
- ▶ Advocacy efforts on Career and Technical Education

What is PPC?

- Statewide non-profit, non-partisan child advocacy organization based in Harrisburg
- Established in 1992
- Core policy areas: maternal and child health; early care and education; child welfare; K-12 education
- Funded primarily through foundations; no government funding
- State [KIDS COUNT](#) grantee - Annie E. Casey Foundation



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HOW WE WORK: CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILDING CONSENSUS

Nurturing powerful partnerships to build consensus to advance child-friendly policies is central to our work. This includes cultivating alliances with other research and data experts, diverse nonprofit and other coalition allies, the media, and state and federal policymakers.



Pennsylvania's KIDS COUNT Data Center

As Pennsylvania's KIDS COUNT data center, PPC partners with state, federal, and private research entities to track and analyze data on more than 130 indicators of child well-being, including education, poverty, health, and youth risk factors. PPC also researches how to improve outcomes for children and families. This forms the foundation for PPC's public policy recommendations.



A Reliable and Objective Resource

PPC's extensive data capabilities allow us to serve as a trusted partner for news media. Data-focused reports, fact sheets, briefs, maps, and other PPC products help guide the public narrative regarding our policy priorities.



Partnering with Policymakers

As a statewide independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit child advocacy organization, PPC partners with both Democrats and Republicans in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. to achieve meaningful policy results.



Partnering with Coalitions, Associations, and Community Leaders

Regardless of the issue, PPC works to achieve consensus among diverse stakeholders to amplify our policy goals. This involves building coalitions of like-minded nonprofits, industry-specific associations, community leaders in law enforcement and the military, as well as chambers of commerce and other business leaders.



FY 2025-26 State Budget Toplines:

- ▶ Governor Shapiro's proposed 2025-26 budget totals \$51.5 billion, a 7.5% increase over last year's budget. The proposal contains several bright spots like K-12 funding, child care, and pre-k. However, this is tempered by level funding or minimal increases in areas like CTE, home visiting and HSSAP
- ▶ Currently 15 weeks into budget impasse
- ▶ Each chamber has passed at least one version of the General Appropriations Act: HB 1330 and SB 160
- ▶ What happens during a budget impasse?

K-12

- ▶ Basic Education: proposed increase of more than \$600 million: \$526 million as the second adequacy investment via the Ready to Learn Block Grant and \$75 million to be distributed through the Basic Education Funding Formula
- ▶ Career & Technical Education: proposed increase of \$5.5 million through the CTE subsidy line
- ▶ School Nutrition: proposed increase of \$10 million to maintain universal free breakfast and expanded eligibility for free school lunch
- ▶ Mental Health: proposed increase of \$111 million for school security and student mental health funding

Early Care and Education

- ▶ Important investments in child care (\$55 million for workforce recruitment and retention initiative) and pre-k (increase of \$17 million)

HR 1

- ▶ Impact on Medicaid resources for schools
- ▶ Overall strain placed on fiscal picture of the Commonwealth

Key Elements in FY 2025-26 Budget

Federal Budget Update

- ▶ Government shutdown began at midnight on October 1, 2025
- ▶ US House narrowly passed a CR to fund the government through October. The same bill requires 60 votes and has failed in the Senate 7 times
- ▶ RIF occurring during shutdown
- ▶ Executive Order to shut down the US Department of Education and that programs end any focus on DEI as a condition to receive federal funds
- ▶ USDOE already reeling from losing half of its workforce in March



Career & Technical Education Advocacy

A First Look: Statewide Data on Pennsylvania's Career and Technical Education System

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides a unique combination of academic, technical, and hands-on skill-building that prepares a student to either immediately enter the workforce or better define career plans as they enter post-secondary education. CTE is critical to ensure that Pennsylvania properly educates and prepares a workforce to immediately enter a competitive economy. Each year, thousands of Pennsylvania students will have already earned higher education credits, completed a pre-apprenticeship, or gained on-the-job skills before graduation, thanks to the CTE path they chose in high school.

Unfortunately, not all students who are interested in CTE have the opportunity to participate. Data demonstrates student interest in CTE continues to grow - yet a lack of sustained state investments, strains on local district budgets, and program and building capacity can lead to students not being able to participate.

To best understand the landscape of CTE, including identifying concrete policy solutions, we need to look at the data on participation and program and student

outcomes in Pennsylvania. For the first time, PPC is sharing a new analysis of CTE data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For this report, data is for the 2022-23 school year. The data show that increased, sustained state investments are critical to CTE growth and the ability to meet students' needs.

What Policymakers Can Do:

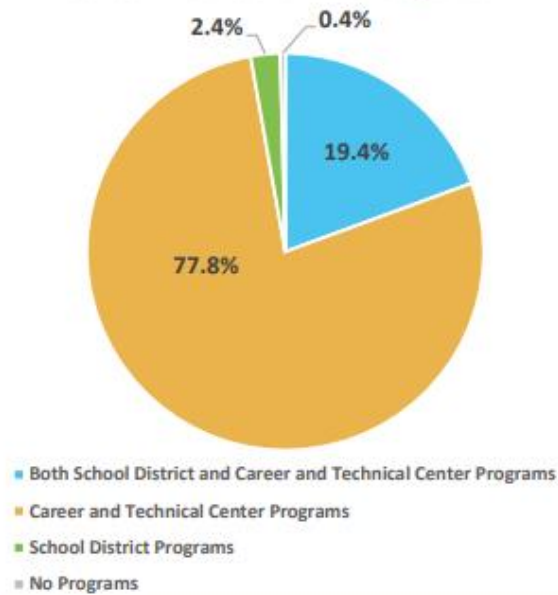
CTE is an important educational pathway that provides specialized and critical workforce preparation support. Student interest and participation continue to grow, but without sustained and increased state investments, not all students who are interested will be able to participate. Long waitlists, program and building capacity issues, and financial strain on local school districts contribute to the inability of all students to have the opportunity to participate in CTE. Policymakers must prioritize CTE programs by ensuring that adequate state funding is available in both the Career and Technical Education Subsidy and Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant line items in the state budget. An investment in CTE is a direct investment in students and the future workforce.



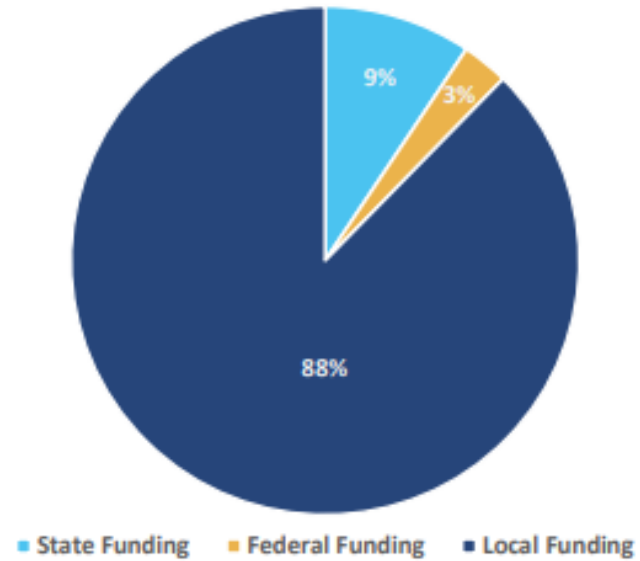
June 2025

A First Look – Statewide Data on Pennsylvania's
Career and Technical Education System (June 2025)

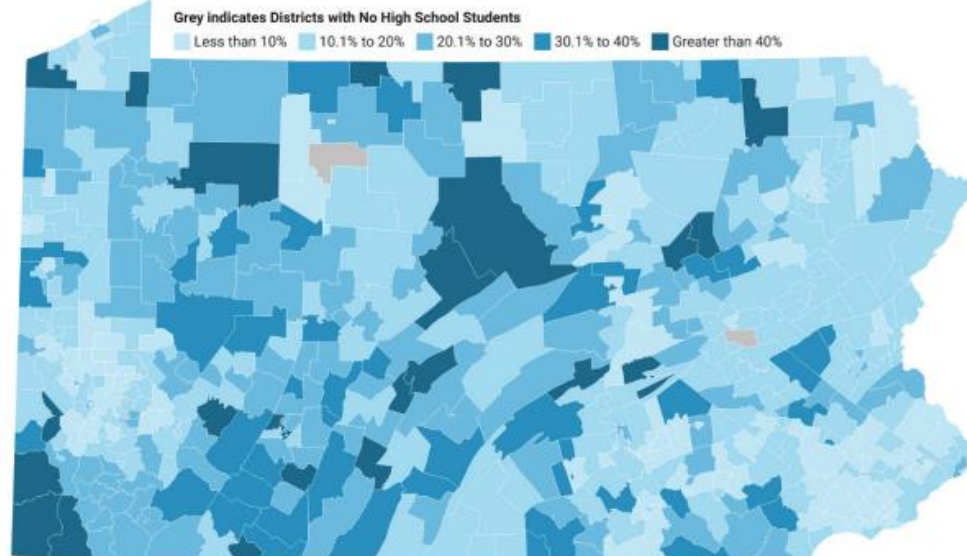
School District CTE Participation



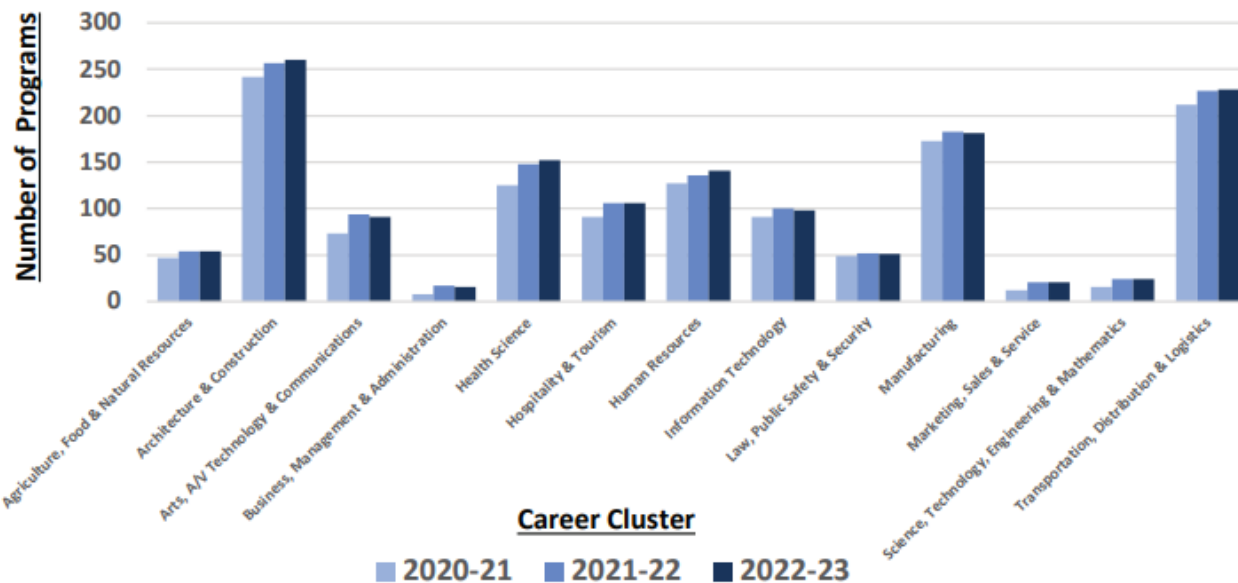
CTE Funding Sources



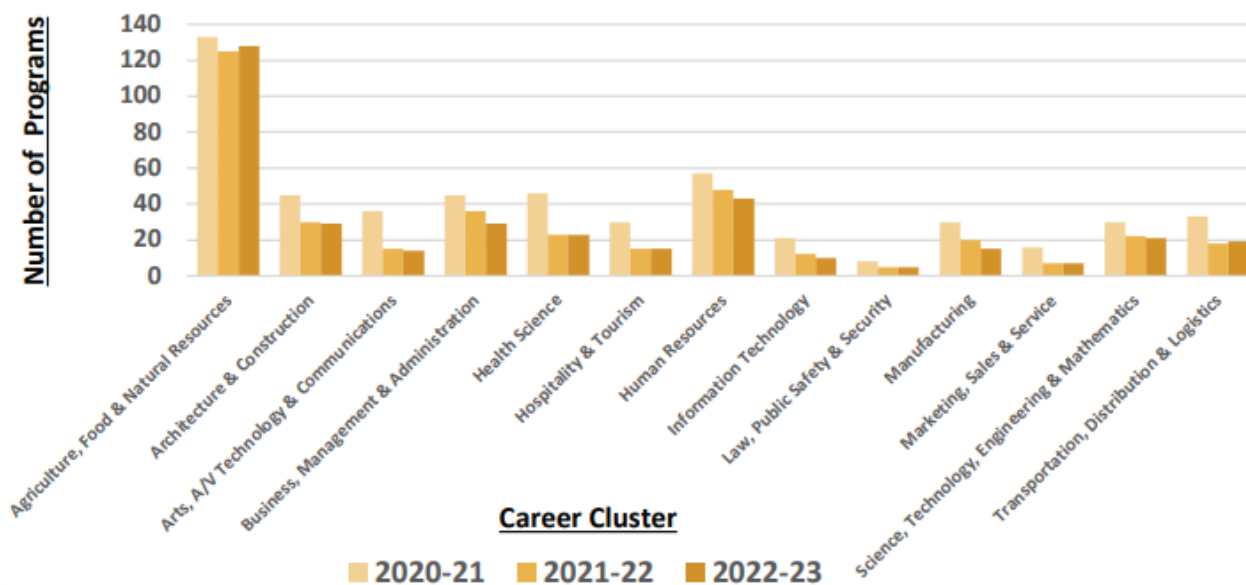
Percentage of 9th-12th Grade Students Participating in CTE Program

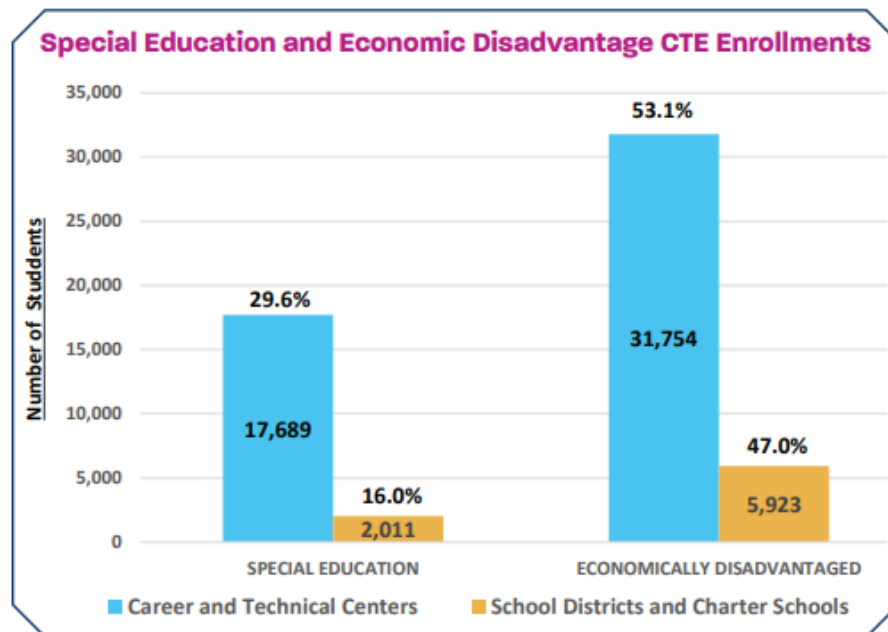
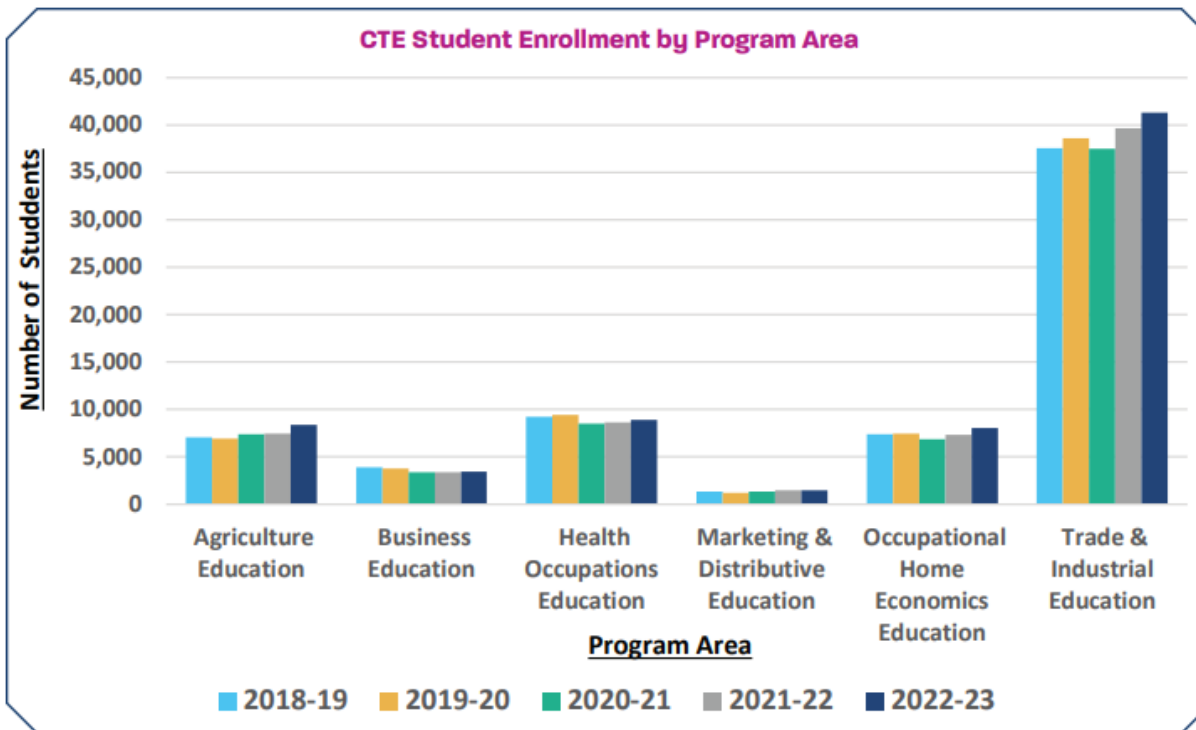


CTC Programs by Career Cluster



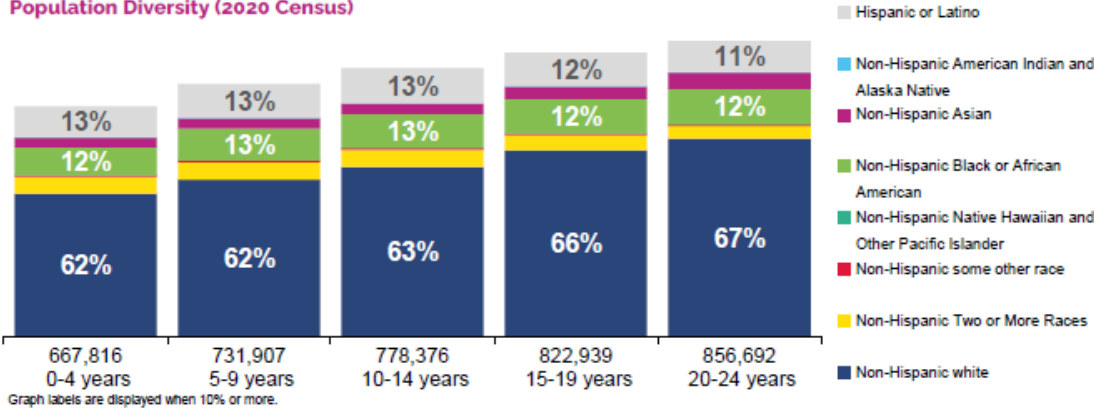
School District and Charter School Programs by Career Cluster





2025 STATE OF THE CHILD - PENNSYLVANIA

Population Diversity (2020 Census)



20%
of the state's population is
CHILDREN

2,649,152
citizens are
CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

1,208,578
citizens are
18-24 YEARS

Children Living in Poverty (<100% FPL)



1 IN 6 (404,490)
CHILDREN
under 18 live in **POVERTY**

35%
CHILDREN
under 18 are **LOW-INCOME** (<200%)

18%
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 live in **POVERTY**

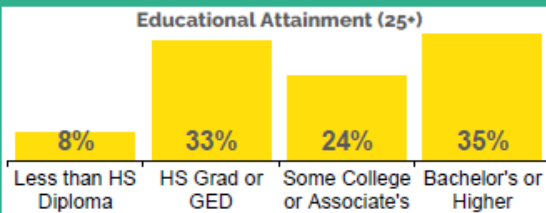
1 IN 3 (330,030)
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 are **LOW-INCOME**

Households with Children
27%

Median Income of Households with Children
MARRIED COUPLE \$129,700
SINGLE FATHER \$57,900
SINGLE MOTHER \$37,100

Unemployment Rate
3.6%

Children Experiencing Homelessness
50,030
Children Under 6 with All Caregivers in Labor Force
72%

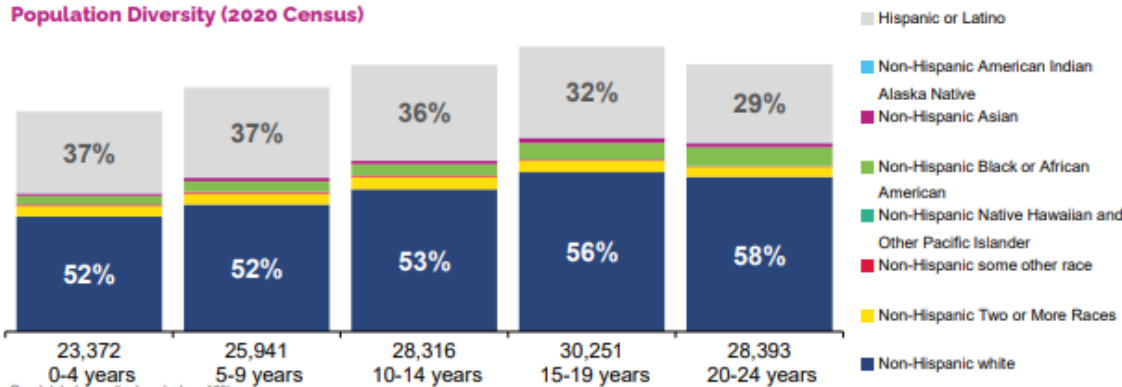


Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance
29%
Households with High Housing Cost Burden
28%

2025 State of the Child

2025 STATE OF THE CHILD - BERKS

Population Diversity (2020 Census)



Berks County Profile



Children Living in Poverty (<100% FPL)



Households with Children

30%

Children Experiencing Homelessness

2,346

Children Under 6 with All Caregivers in Labor Force

70%

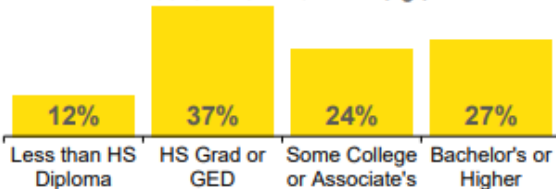
Median Income of Households with Children

MARRIED COUPLE	SINGLE FATHER	SINGLE MOTHER
\$122,200	\$67,400	\$36,900

Unemployment Rate

3.7%

Educational Attainment (25+)



Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance

30%

Households with High Housing Cost Burden

28%

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!



<https://www.papartnerships.org/>



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