

BRIEF 2: CTE CONCENTRATOR OUTCOMES

CTE concentrators out-earn their non-concentrator peers.

About This Series

To build a clear picture of the opportunities and supports driving economic mobility, the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways (ETEP) is releasing public-facing dashboards and briefs on education and employment outcomes for DC residents who work in the District, attended DC public schools, and participated in District-funded programs. These outcomes reflect residents whose education records could be matched to employment records – meaning the data does not yet include some residents, such as those working for the federal government or outside the District. This series will help District residents, program providers, policymakers, agency leaders, and educators better understand the impact of education and workforce programs on residents' employment outcomes.

About This Brief

This analysis examines **employment outcomes for DC career and technical education (CTE) concentrators**, focusing on median annual wages and employment stability in the years following high school graduation.

Key Finding 1

CTE concentrators out-earn their non-CTE peers, and the advantage widens over time – with some career clusters pulling further ahead than others.

CTE concentrators out-earn non-CTE peers by about **\$1,000** one year after high school graduation.

That gap grows to about **\$2,500** by five years after graduation.

By five years after high school graduation, concentrators in the Hospitality & Tourism cluster earned about **\$40,336** – roughly **\$5,000 above** the overall CTE concentrator average.

Key Finding 2

Employment stability is similar for CTE concentrators and non-concentrators alike, though early differences are emerging by career cluster.

CTE concentrators and non-concentrators follow a similar trend and reach an employment stability rate of **77%–78%** by five years after high school graduation.

While the data is still emerging, some early differences appear by CTE career cluster: By five years after high school graduation, **80%** of CTE concentrators in the Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) cluster reached stable employment, compared to **72%** of CTE concentrators in Hospitality & Tourism.

Additional Context



"Employment stability" is defined in this analysis as an individual having earnings across three consecutive quarters, based on data from employment records.



A "CTE concentrator" is defined as someone who successfully completes at least three sequential courses in a state-approved CTE pathway (different from a "career cluster" which refers to a broad industry grouping). Therefore, "non-CTE" peers may include individuals who took CTE courses, but not at the "concentrator" level.



There may be further differences in employment outcomes depending on the CTE career cluster pursued, which will be explored in future research. Career cluster findings above reflect early and comparatively small subgroups within the overall concentrator population and should be interpreted with that in mind.

Explore the Dashboard

Use the interactive dashboards to explore these findings.

Key Finding 1:

Median Annual Wages among DC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators

[LINK](#)

Key Finding 2:

Stable Employment Rate among DC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators

[LINK](#)