

# CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL: DOES IT IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES?

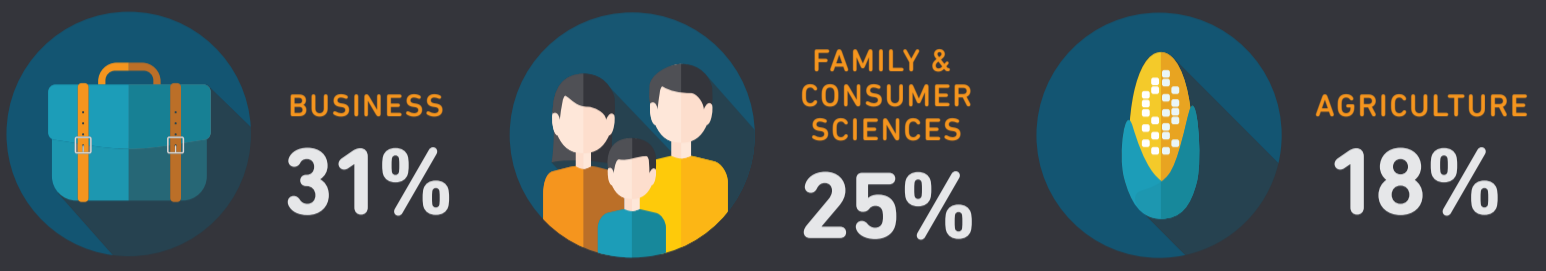
## EVIDENCE FROM ARKANSAS

**89%** OF STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST ONE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COURSE IN HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS TAKE AN AVERAGE OF **4.9** CTE COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL\*

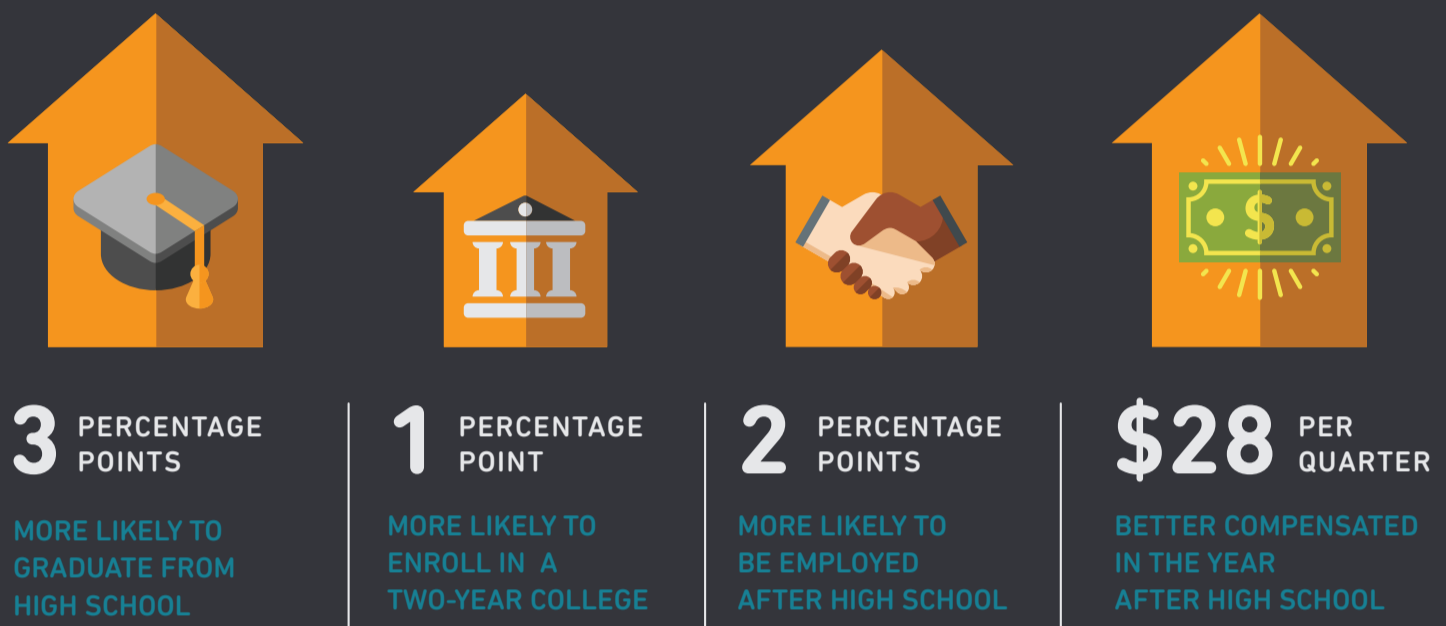
STUDENTS CAN CONCENTRATE BY TAKING A SEQUENCE OF THREE OR MORE CTE COURSES IN A PROGRAM OF STUDY ALIGNED TO A SPECIFIC CAREER AND INDUSTRY.

ROUGHLY THREE-QUARTERS OF STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO CONCENTRATE DO SO IN ONE OF THREE PROGRAMS OF STUDY:



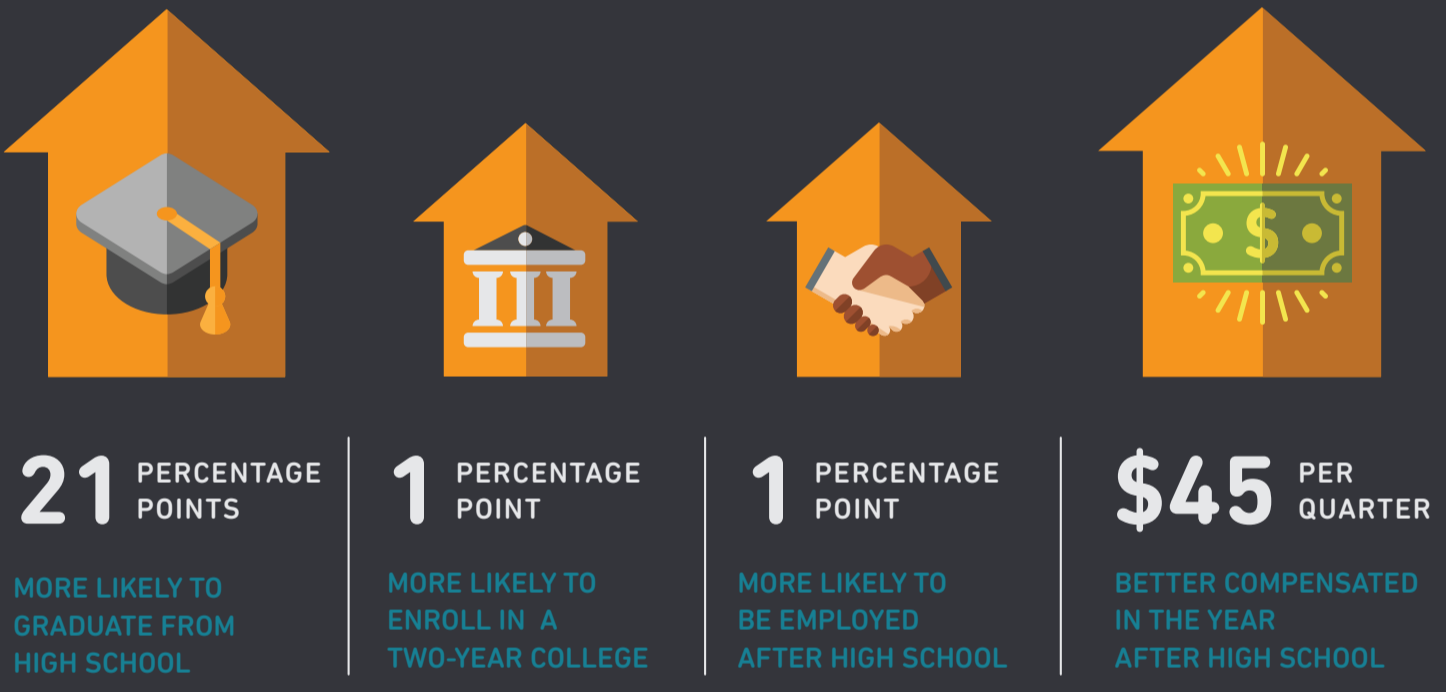
## BENEFITS OF CTE COURSEWORK

JUST ONE ADDITIONAL CTE CLASS ABOVE THE AVERAGE MEANS A STUDENT IS...



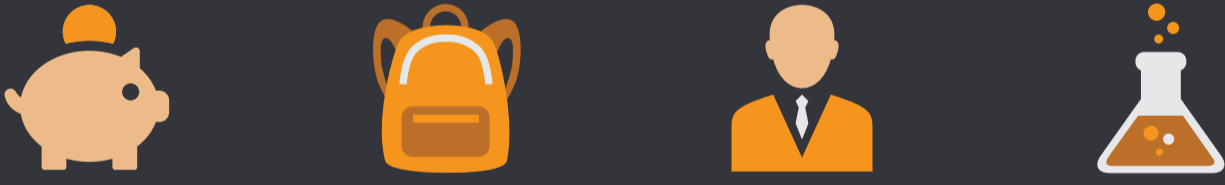
## BENEFITS OF CONCENTRATION

STUDENTS WHO CONCENTRATE IN A SINGLE PROGRAM OF STUDY ARE...



...COMPARED TO SIMILAR STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE SAME NUMBER OF COURSES BUT DO NOT CONCENTRATE.

## BENEFITS FOR TYPES OF STUDENTS



**LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS**  
who concentrate are 25 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school than identical students who do not concentrate.

**STUDENTS WHO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL**  
see twice the boost on initial college enrollment from additional high school CTE coursework.

**MALE STUDENTS**  
who concentrate are 22 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school, and earn \$89 more per quarter, than identical male students who do not concentrate.

**STUDENTS WHO CONCENTRATE IN STEM, IT, AND HEALTH SCIENCES**  
are more likely to graduate from high school and receive a greater wage benefit than students who concentrate in other areas.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### STATES:

Offer CTE courses aligned to skills and industry-recognized credentials in high-growth industries, and encourage (or require) high school students to take them.

Systemize "CTE for all" by offering courses that are appealing, relevant, and available to all types of students at all types of schools.

Advise students taking multiple CTE courses to concentrate, especially in programs that prepare them to enter high-growth industries.

### FEDERAL:

Reauthorize the Perkins Act and increase federal support for high-quality, labor-market-aligned CTE.



For more, read the full report at [edexcellence.net](http://edexcellence.net)

\*Beginning with the class of 2014, Arkansas implemented "Smart Core" which requires that high school students complete six units of "career focus" coursework in addition to their academics. CTE courses can fulfill the requirement, as can electives such as guidance counselor, music, or AP courses. (Whether a class counts toward the requirement is determined by a student's guidance counselor based on his or her aspirations.) Our data include all students entering ninth grade in 2008 and 2009, who were not subject to Smart Core, and students entering ninth grade in 2010, who were.