

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION POLICY BRIEF

Restore 9th Grade Funding for JTEDs

Career and Technical Education engages students by teaching practical academic, creative, and technical skills in a vast array of career choices. CTE's specific goal, represented nowhere else in education, is to prepare students for life that comes after high school. CTE needs to be an integral part of every student's education so that all students graduate from high school globally competitive for work, prepared for postsecondary education, and ready for life as positive, contributing members of society. The benefits of CTE include improved test scores, higher graduation rates, more success with



postsecondary education, and greater economic independence. However, these benefits come with the completion of a CTE program, not just participation in a CTE course. Many CTE programs are three year programs and some are four year programs. Starting students in a CTE program in the 10th grade diminishes the student's ability to complete the program.

In 2011, the Legislature voted to limit the JTED funding for 9th grade in order to balance the state budget. The short term savings to the state budget,

Source: Pima JTED

estimated to be \$29 million per year, does not outweigh the long term benefit of having more students graduate high school college and/or career ready.

Research shows that state economies improve when greater numbers of students are able to enter the workforce faster with CTE experience. Skilled workers are also essential for attracting and keeping employers located in our communities.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Legislature restore funding for 9th grade students.