

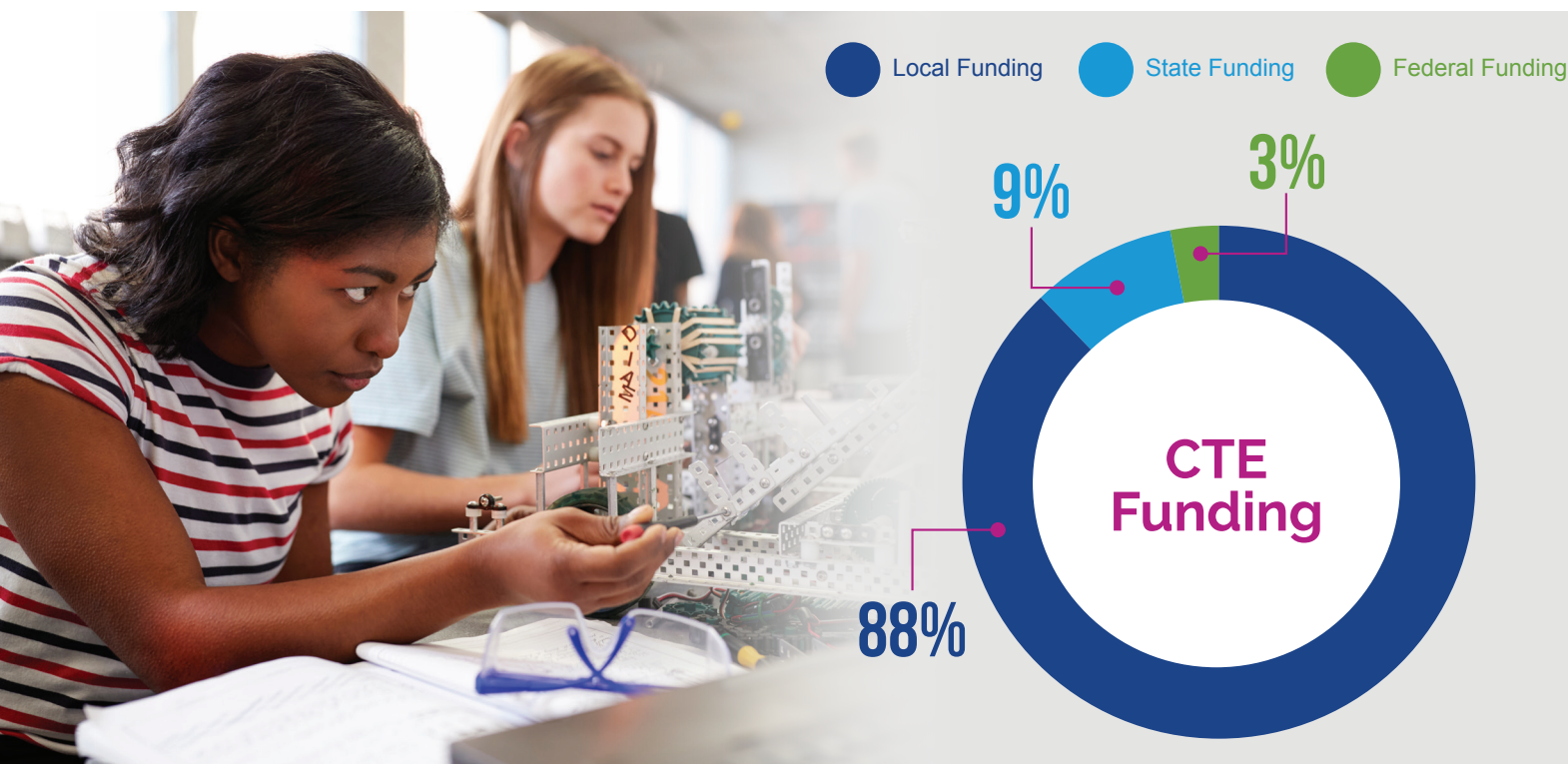
# INVESTING IN CTE TODAY ENSURES A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE TOMORROW

Career and technical education (CTE) combines academic, technical and hands-on skill-building that prepares students to immediately enter high-priority occupations or better define career plans, including post-secondary education. Each year thousands of Pennsylvania students will have already earned higher education credits, completed a pre-apprenticeship program or gained on-the-job skills before graduation because of the CTE path they chose in high school. ***Unfortunately, not all students get to participate in CTE due to the lack of sustained state investments in funding to support programming.***

CTE is critical to ensuring that Pennsylvania properly educates and prepares a workforce to enter a competitive economy immediately. Our CTE programs boast a guaranteed return on investment

for our state's businesses and should be available to all public school students. Every Pennsylvania student should have the option to pursue the coursework and learning opportunities that allow them to progress down that path. The General Assembly must provide financial support to make that dream a reality.

The state Career and Technical Education Subsidy (SCETS) in the Department of Education's budget represents only 9% of the total cost to fund career and technical education. Federal Carl D. Perkins funding covers roughly 3% of the career and technical education centers (CTC) budget. That leaves member school districts paying approximately 88% of the budget to send students to a CTC. Districts may limit CTE enrollment into CTE due to the high costs of sending students to CTCs.



There are 13 comprehensive CTCs, including three single district programs, and 68 occupational CTCs serving approximately 54,000 students. Cost per student is determined by the contracts between a CTC and the local school district, which relies primarily on local district funding.

### Recent Support for CTE Lagging Despite Bipartisan Support:

Policymakers understand the value of career and technical education, evidenced by budgetary increases to CTE in both the 2018-19 and 2019-20 budgets, as well as allocating federal stimulus funding to CTCs in 2020 and early 2021. Despite bipartisan and bicameral support, CTE was flat-funded in the 2021-22 budget, which included no state increase to fund CTCs.

While the 2022-23 budget contained an increase of \$6.1 million in the SCETS line, the funding did not result in additional resources going to the state's CTCs, nor did it improve student access. Further, it did not contain an increase for the Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant line, which has also been level-funded for several years when costs for equipment for CTCs have increased.

### Support CTE in the 2023-24 State Budget:

The governor's proposed 2023-24 state budget includes an increase of \$17.3 million directed to CTE, ensuring students have access to high-quality, technical education:

- \$14 million in the CTE subsidy line. While the governor's proposal would divide the funding across several small grant programs, ***policymakers should support the FULL amount to be appropriated through the CTE formula to address enrollment growth and increase the subsidy rate.***
- \$3.3 million in the CTE Equipment Grant line: CTCs utilize this critical program to update or purchase new equipment for hands-on learning. ***Policymakers should fully support the \$3.3 million increase for this purpose.***

***By supporting a \$14 million increase for the CTE subsidy line and the \$3.3 million increase to the CTE Equipment Grant line—or a total level of increased support of \$17.3 million—policymakers can ensure districts have the resources necessary to increase access to CTE and that programs have the tools and equipment to continue to provide high-quality services by making this investment.***



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