

KENTUCKY EDGUIDES | CORE PROGRAMS 2.6

Technical Centers

As students move toward college and career readiness, some of them seek a program that allows them to master significant technical skills as well as academics before graduation.

WHAT ARE TECHNICAL CENTERS?

Kentucky's 95 technology centers offer high school students opportunities to prepare for skilled jobs, developing technical knowledge and skills while continuing their academic studies and working toward a high school diploma. 53 of Kentucky's centers serve students from multiple school systems and are known as Area Technology Centers (ATCs) directed by the Kentucky Department of Education. 42 others are locally operated.

WHAT CAN STUDENTS STUDY AT KENTUCKY TECHNICAL CENTERS?

Kentucky's career and technical education programs are course sequences that focus on a specific career cluster. The statewide Program of Studies addresses 11 program areas, and each technical center provides some of those areas:

- Agriculture Education
- Architecture and Construction
- Business and Marketing Education
- Engineering and Technology
- Family and Consumer Science
- Health Science
- Information Technology
- Law and Public Safety
- Manufacturing Technology
- Transportation
- Visual Media

CAN TECHNICAL STUDENTS ALSO EARN COLLEGE CREDITS IN TECHNICAL FIELDS?

Yes. Dual credit can be offered, giving students both high school and Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) credit for classes taught at the technical centers. Dual credit classes must be taught by teachers who meet KCTCS standards and include the same learning as the KCTCS equivalent course.

CAN TECHNICAL STUDENTS COMBINE STUDIES AND WORK ON AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Yes, under a new program known as Tech-Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK), an employer and a technical center work out a sequence for student learning that includes at least four courses, one of which is a cooperative education placement. For students who complete the program, their on-the-job hours count toward a longer apprenticeship program in a skilled trade, and the student receives an industry certificate as well. The initial pilot work was done by 13 technical centers with a focus on manufacturing. Additional options may be developed.

SEEING RESULTS

On academic career-ready benchmarks:

- 74% of 2014 technical center students met the academic career-ready benchmarks
- 27 centers had more than 80% meeting those benchmarks
- Five centers had less than 50% meeting those benchmarks

On technical career-ready benchmarks:

- 65% of 2014 technical center students met the technical career-ready benchmarks.
- 33 technical centers had more than 70% meeting those benchmarks
- Five technical centers had less than 40% meeting those benchmarks

LEARNING MORE

Kentucky Report: From Two Systems to One World-Class System of Technical Centers is an in-depth analysis from the Southern Regional Education Board. The report and other career technical information are at www.education.ky.gov search for "career technical."

HOW ARE TECHNICAL CENTERS FUNDED?

Kentucky provides state funding for both the state-operated and the locally-operated technical centers. Federal funds and local revenues also support technical education.