

Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Advisory Committee

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE)

Nov. 2, 2026

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

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Welcome

Harmony Little, Chair

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Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2026, Meeting

Harmony Little, Chair

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OCTE Staffing Updates

Beth Engle, Division Director

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NEW Staff

Jessica Thompson, Business and Marketing Program Consultant

Stesha Flowers, Regional Career and Technical Education Consultant

Larry Garrity, Regional Career and Technical Education Consultant

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OCTE Strategic Plan

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

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OCTE Vision

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Each and every career and technical education student empowered and equipped to pursue a successful future.

OCTE Mission

To maximize student success through partnerships with districts, schools, families, students, business and industry and communities to provide leadership and support to ensure successful career transition for each and every Career and Technical Education student.

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OCTE Strategic Plan

Goal 1--Increase the percentage of CTE 12th-grade cohort students graduating post-secondary career ready from 64% in 2024 to **70% by June 2028** as measured by CTE Accountability Data for 2028 school year.

Goal 2--Decrease ATC chronic absenteeism rate from 8.22% in 2024 to 7% by 2028.

Goal 3-- Collaborate to develop, train staff, pilot a quality middle school exploration plan based on the Education Strategy Middle School three-year plan and incorporating the ILP and Futuriti by June 2028 as measured by the three-year plan

Goal 4-- Increase the completion rate of eligible high school students in a Teaching and Learning Pathway from 6% in 2024 to 9% by 2028.

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Continuing Priorities

- Increase stakeholder communication regarding the current and future state of CTE.

- Incorporate emerging technologies and techniques within the revalidation or creation of standards

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Accountability

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

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2025-2026 CTE Data for Secondary Students

144,661

Number of students grades 9-12 participating in CTE



16,262

Number of graduates earning more than one postsecondary credential

UNIQUE CONCENTRATORS:

84.20%

of students completed at least two credits in a four-course pathway

98.52%

of CTE concentrators graduated

79,474

Number of students grades 9-12 participating in a CTSO

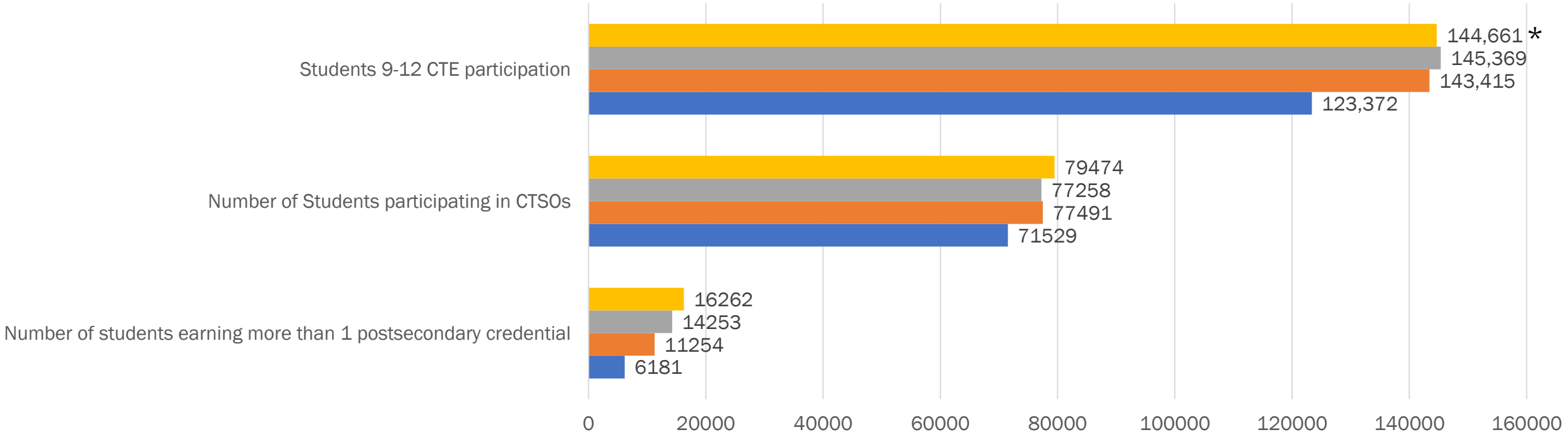


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SOURCE: School Report Card as of 10/22/2026

Secondary CTE Data Trends



	Number of students earning more than 1 postsecondary credential	Number of Students participating in CTSOs	Students 9-12 CTE participation
2025-2026	16262	79474	144,661
2024-2025	14253	77258	145,369
2023-2024	11254	77491	143,415
2022-2023	6181	71529	123,372

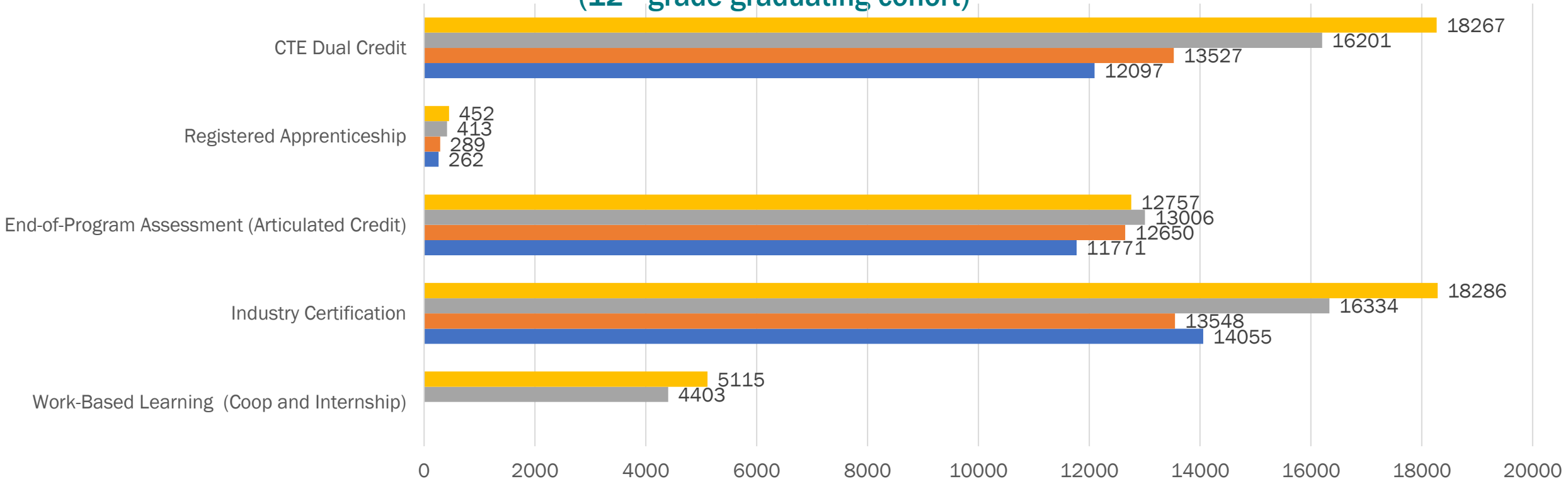
2025-2026 2024-2025 2023-2024 2022-2023

*Participation rate in 2025-26 was 71.9% where 2024-25 was 70.3%.

Data source: State Report Card (SRC) as of 10.22.2026

Career Readiness by Numbers

(12th-grade graduating cohort)



	Work-Based Learning (Coop and Internship)	Industry Certification	End-of-Program Assessment (Articulated Credit)	Registered Apprenticeship	CTE Dual Credit
2025-2026	5115	18286	12757	452	18267
2024-2025	4403	16334	13006	413	16201
2023-2024		13548	12650	289	13527
2022-2023		14055	11771	262	12097

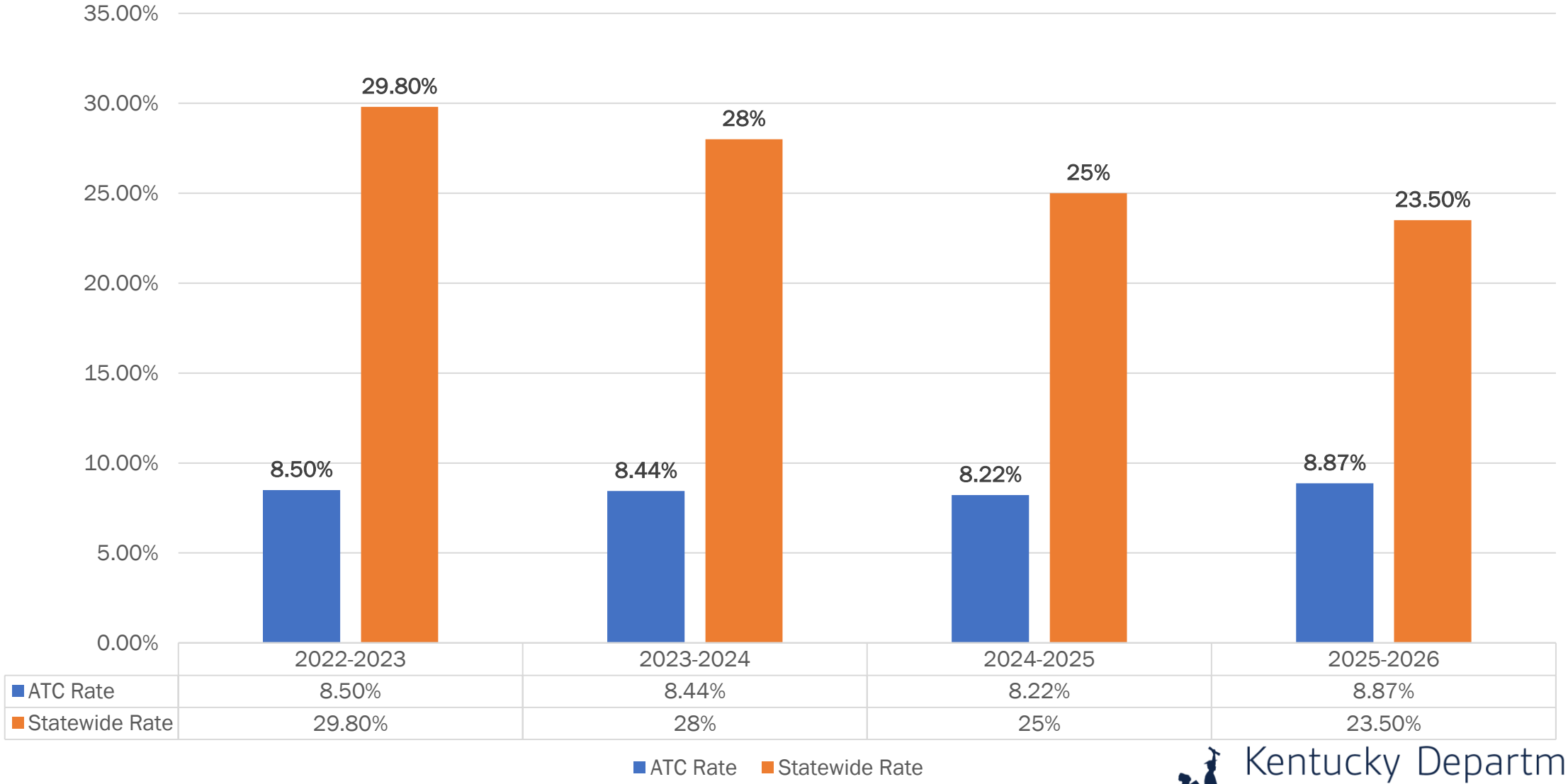
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2025-2026 2024-2025 2023-2024 2022-2023

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Data source: State Report Card (SRC) as of 10.15.2026
WBL data was not collected until 2023-2024 for inclusion for accountability

ATC Chronic Absenteeism



	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
ATC Rate	8.50%	8.44%	8.22%	8.87%
Statewide Rate	29.80%	28%	25%	23.50%

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Data sources: ATC: Campus Report. Statewide: SRC
10/22/2026

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KRS 156 Salary Schedule

Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

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156 Salary Schedule Considerations

- Difficulty matching business and industry salaries for all CTE instructors
- Lack of funding to implement a significant increase
- Impact limited to 156 employees located in ATCs
- KRS 156.808(6)(e) Supplementary information for the salary schedule for certified and equivalent staff including teachers, counselors, administrators, managers, and educational consultants in state-operated vocational technical facilities, field offices and central office in the Office of Career and Technical Education that shall provide uniformity, recognition of education, teaching, and supervisory experience and use as a base the average salary paid to beginning classroom teachers by all public schools in the state for personnel with comparable qualifications and experience. Indexes may be incorporated in the compensation plan for administrative responsibilities. The salary schedule shall be computed annually, and shall be submitted to and approved by the governor;

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Occupation-Based Teacher Certification

Lauren Graves, Ph.D., Policy Advisor

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16 KAR 2:020 (effective April 7, 2026)

- Revisions to the occupation-based career and technical education teacher certification regulation are now in effect.
- Most amendments bring clarity to the requirements and process to align with practice.
- Section 5: Electricity, Plumbing, and HVAC.
  - Individuals holding a Kentucky issued master license earned through proper assessment will no longer be required to earn an associate's degree.
    - Assessment requirements in 16 KAR 6:020
    - New Teacher Institute (NTI) (professional learning: classroom management, lesson planning and curriculum, assessment, academic integration of numeracy and literacy, and instruction for students with special learning needs)
    - Rank III

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Occupation-Based Certification

- Current Requirements per 16 KAR 2:020 Occupation-based career and technical education teacher certification
    - Minimum of four years of successful and appropriate occupational experience in the occupation area for which the individual is seeking certification, two years must be within the last five years
    - Assessments per 16 KAR 6:020
    - Enrollment in New Teacher Institute (NTI) (two years)
    - Applicants without an occupation-based degree or occupation-based educator preparation degree must complete an associates degree in the certification content area within six years

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16 KAR 2:020 Draft Proposed Amendments and Considerations

- Draft proposed amendments:
  - Occupation-based career and technical education emergency substitute certificate
  - Occupation-based career and technical education emergency certificate
  - Active Kentucky certified educators seeking occupation-based career and technical education certification
  - Occupation-based career and technical education certification for individuals with out-of-state certification for career and technical education
  - Occupation-based certification for educators with teaching experience at the postsecondary level seeking secondary certification in the same occupational area
- Considerations:
  - From one size fits all to different requirements for Program Areas (13)
  - Master license or similar exempted from associate degree but remain at Rank III
  - Other

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Kentucky Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (KY JROTC)

COL(Ret.) Tim McDonald
Kentucky JROTC Director

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KY Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps JROTC

Kentucky JROTC TOP 10 Accomplishments

1. Increased JROTC oversight, accreditation and Honor Unit designations
2. Increased JROTC programs and JROTC Cadet enrollment
3. Increased collaboration, communication and community outreach
4. Increased JROTC Cadet national credentialing
5. Increased statewide JROTC Cadet and Instructor recognition rewarding excellence
6. Increased JROTC property accountability and quality of equipment
7. Increased high-quality instructor recruitment and retention
8. Increased workforce development via the US Army and KDE Career Skills Program internships and Department of War SkillBridge internship program.
9. Increased opportunity for participation in JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC)
10. Increasing JROTC curriculum with seven new electives in SY 27-28.

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Other Items for Discussion

- Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Positional membership, Dexter Knight

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Questions and Feedback



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Reflection and Adjournment

Harmony Little, Chair

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