

The Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky or TRACK Youth Apprenticeship program is a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education and the Education and Labor Cabinet. This program provides high school students with seamless career pathway opportunities into Registered Apprenticeship.

TRACK is a business and industry driven approach designed to create a pipeline for students to enter post-secondary apprenticeship training while gaining credit for courses taken and on-the-job hours worked in high school. Employers can tailor the program for their specific needs and select the Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and students for their apprenticeship program. Employers gain future employees that have a good foundation and an interest in the occupation. Additionally, it enables students to receive a nationally recognized United States Department of Labor portable credential at little or no cost.

CTE students are the untapped and sustainable answer to the skilled workforce shortage! By utilizing Registered Apprenticeship, students do not have to choose between an education and a career ... being educated by the employer leads to their career!

In 2022, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) named the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education one of the nation's first Apprenticeship Ambassadors. In 2024, they were again recognized by the USDOL for their commitment to modernize, diversify and expand Registered Apprenticeship to support the success of American workers, employers and communities across the country.

TRACK RESULTS

- Proven seamless career pathway that leads to gainful employment with little or no student debt.
- Registered Apprenticeship is being recognized as a valuable and accepted post-secondary option for students.
- The program reinforces employability skills, particularly the importance of attendance.
- A competitive recruiting environment is being created, not only among students who want to participate in the program, but employers who want to hire these students.
- Employers are registering apprenticeship programs just to participate in TRACK.
- On average, 80% of students transition to their current employer after graduation to complete the apprenticeship.

Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) data indicates that TRACK youth apprentices are earning 45% more than Kentucky's median wage and have a 90% retention rate after completing their apprenticeship six years after graduation without accruing college debt!

There is a TRACK pre-apprenticeship option for designated skilled trade occupations that does not entail on-the-job learning, but credit for prior learning can still be granted. Please contact the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education for more information.

www.education.ky.gov/CTE/cter/Pages/TRACK.aspx











DISTRICT BENEFITS

- Prepares students for the local workforce.
- Promotes positive partnerships with local community and business leaders.
- Engages hands-on learners and reinforces employability skills.
- Results in an industry certification.
- Students will reach completer status based on Kentucky's Perkins plan.

EMPLOYER BENEFITS

- Employer-tailored training.
- Employers select students and courses for the program.
- Employers choose terms for continuous employment.
- Students have sector-specific safety knowledge.
- Proven retention strategy.
- Works with any number of trainees.
- Can create multiple pipelines by collaborating with several different schools in the region.
- Saves time and money.
- Minimal recruitment and no relocation costs.
- On-the-job hours while in high school count towards apprenticeship.
- Credit for prior learning toward Related Technical Instruction.



STUDENT BENEFITS

- Get course credit and paid for on-the-job training in your career pathway!
- The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) can be used for Registered Apprenticeship!
- No student loans!
- A student's on-the-job hours will count toward apprenticeship completion.
- A student's successful Youth Apprenticeship completion could result in being accepted into the Registered Apprenticeship program.
- Upon completion of post-secondary apprenticeship, students will receive a nationally recognized portable credential.

