

Career Technical Education Teachers and Funding

Report highlights

August 2026

Idaho's CTE programs face challenges with funding restrictions, program access, and teacher pay.

1,103 CTE programs were offered in the 2026 school year, with about 151,500 course enrollments in 125 local education agencies.

0 of the 119 Health Professions and Public Safety programs were offered in 2026 in the smallest districts, compared to 82 in the largest.

53% of survey respondents cited the foundation formula not adjusting for CTE's smaller class sizes as a barrier to offering CTE programs.

66% of those surveyed found recruiting CTE instructors difficult over the past five years. Seven percent found it easy.

40% said they have paused or canceled a CTE program since 2022. Of those, 76 percent cited the lack of a qualified instructor.

59% of survey respondents rated CTE teacher pay as not competitive with local industry wages.

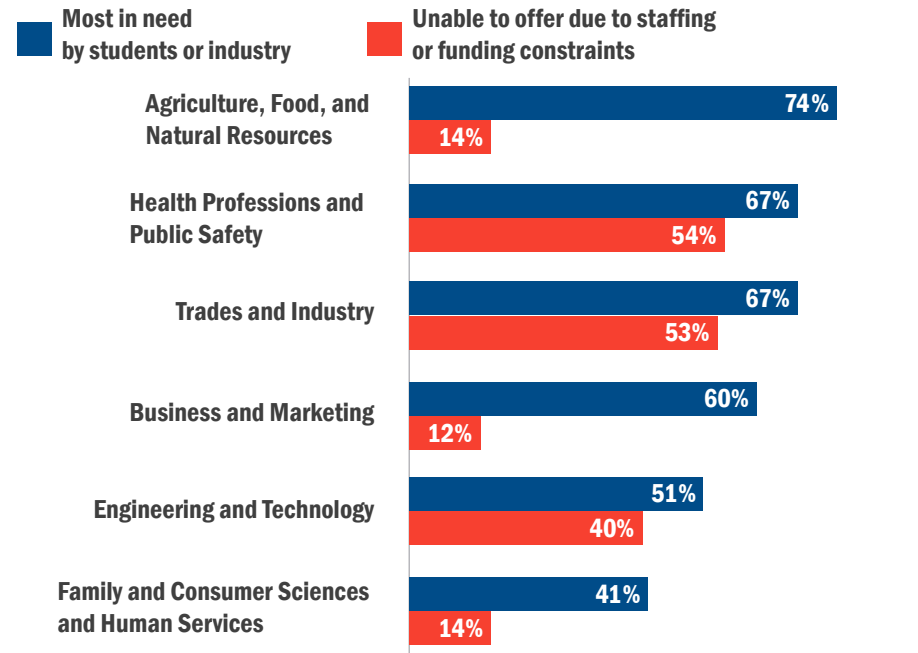


View the report:
www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope

The most widely available dedicated CTE funding cannot be used for teacher salaries.

The Idaho Division of Career Technical Education distributed six funding streams totaling \$25 million in fiscal year 2025. The largest, Program Added Cost Funds, made up more than half of dedicated funding but cannot be used for teacher base salary. Most neighboring states have CTE funds that can pay for teacher salaries.

Health Professions and Trades are among the most needed program areas and the hardest to offer.



CTE teacher pay matches other teachers, but not industry pay.

CTE teachers made \$467 more on average a year than non-CTE teachers, with greater pay disparities based on career-ladder placement and program area. CTE teachers in Health Professions and Public Safety and Engineering and Technology program areas earned substantially less than the occupations they train students to enter.