

LOWER SAVANNAH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment



Allendale - Barnwell - Calhoun
Aiken - Bamberg - Orangeburg

The Perkins V bi-annual regional Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment for the Lower Savannah Workforce Region ensures all Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs align with regional labor market demands thus building a pipeline of skilled workers for an ever-responsive workforce.

The following successes and challenges were noted in the assessment:

- There is a disconnect between the regional opportunities, relatively lucrative pay and parent/student perceptions. Only 2% of 243 surveyed parents selected Manufacturing as their top field of choice for their children, and only 1.4% of 1,438 surveyed students selected it as their top career pathway of interest.
- A holistic approach to student completion and attainment of postsecondary credentials includes career-pathway testing, tutoring, coaching, and advising targeting CTE students. The wide variety of industry-recognized certifications offered at the region's technical colleges also support student credential attainment.
- Strong and growing dual enrollment opportunities provide students streamlined pathways into lucrative CTE careers. Marketing efforts by the technical colleges provide students with relevant academic and financial aid information to support informed decisions concerning their educational futures.

EDUCATION REQUIRED FOR ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE REGION

High School Diploma	75.00%
Technical College Certificate	9.09%
Associate's Degree	13.64%
Bachelor's Degree	2.27%
Masters Degree or higher	0.00%

• The SC Manufacturing Alliance developed the Manufacturing Technician Certificate as part of an economic development project in the state. The SC Technical College System encouraged all colleges to add the Certificate. Denmark Technical College has expanded the College's Continuing Education offering into a credit program to support local industry needs in Fall 2021.

• The SC Hospital Association (SCHA) reached out to the SCTCS in Spring 2022 indicating an employer need for trained mental and behavioral health technicians across the state. An Allied Health Deans Peer Group has been established to develop a set of competencies and curriculum in conjunction with regional employers to bring a Behavioral Health Technician Certificate to all three technical colleges in the region.

• The Lower Savannah region technical colleges provide a variety of services for Special Population students. These services encompass CTE tutoring; counseling (both general support and career); financial support via Pell, other need-based grants and scholarships (frequently the college's Foundation), low and no cost open educational resources (including items such as loaner laptops), and food pantries to assist low socioeconomic-status (SES) students; for students with disabilities, the colleges provide a variety of services, including captioning/transcripts of audio-visual materials, text-to-speech support, motion-sensitive entry-ways and devices across the campuses, and home accessibility via online options.

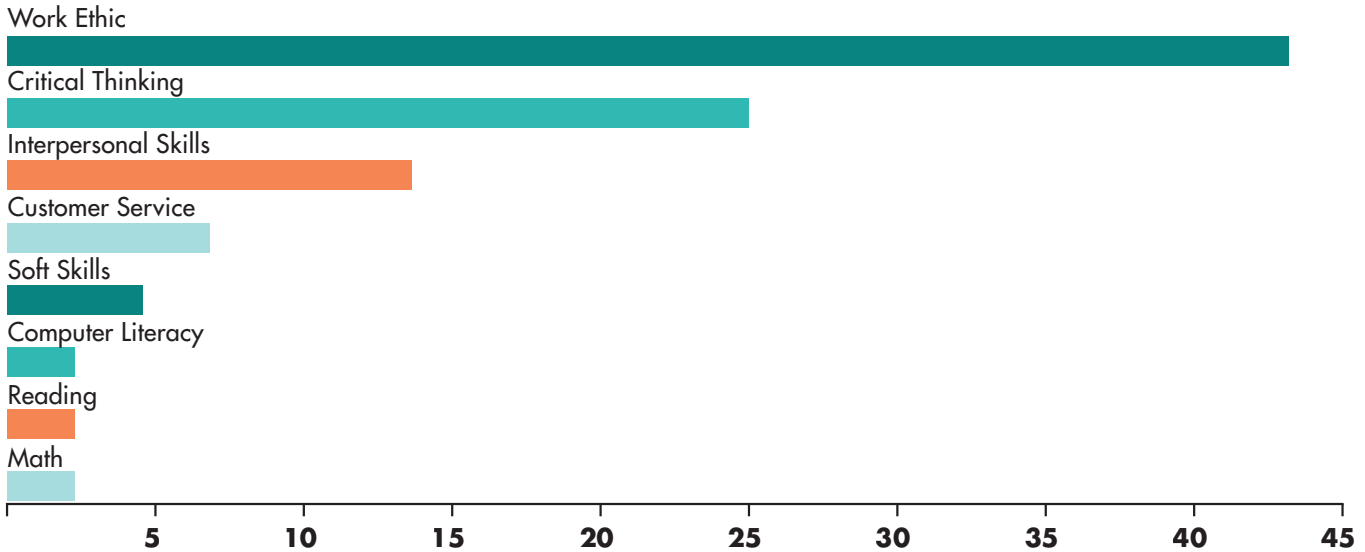
WAGE RANGE FOR ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE REGION



INDUSTRY SURVEY

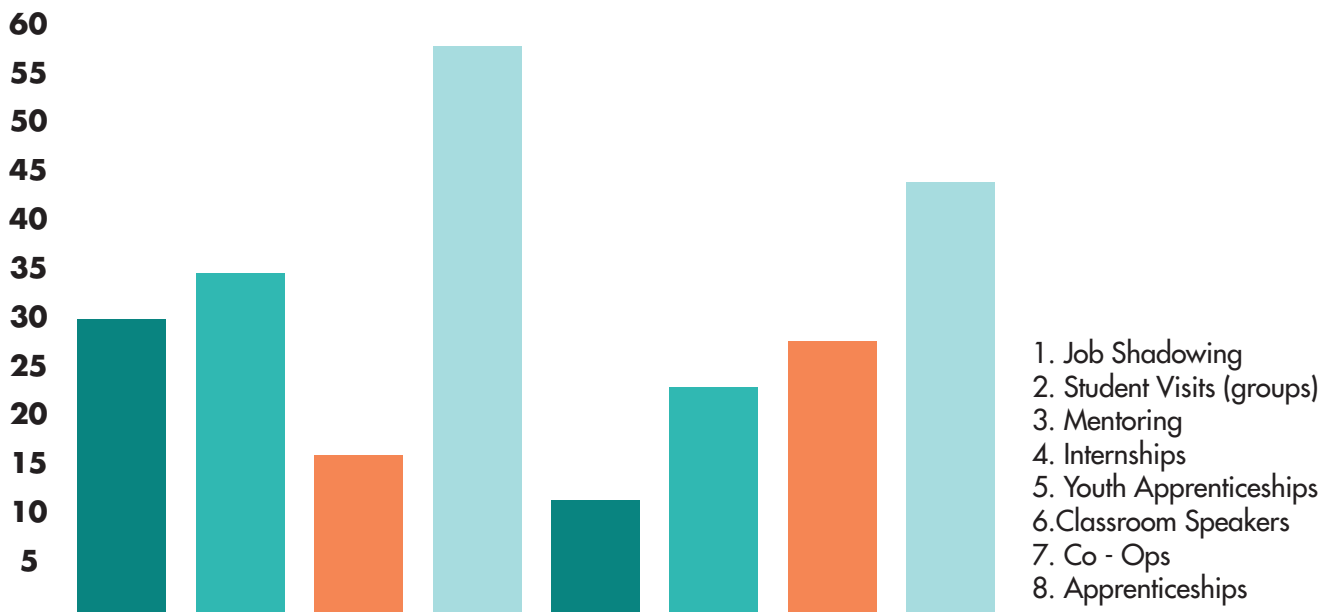
Industry representatives were asked:

WHAT BASIC SKILLS DOES YOUR COMPANY LOOK FOR WHEN HIRING?



The most desired skill is work ethic, followed by critical thinking and interpersonal skills

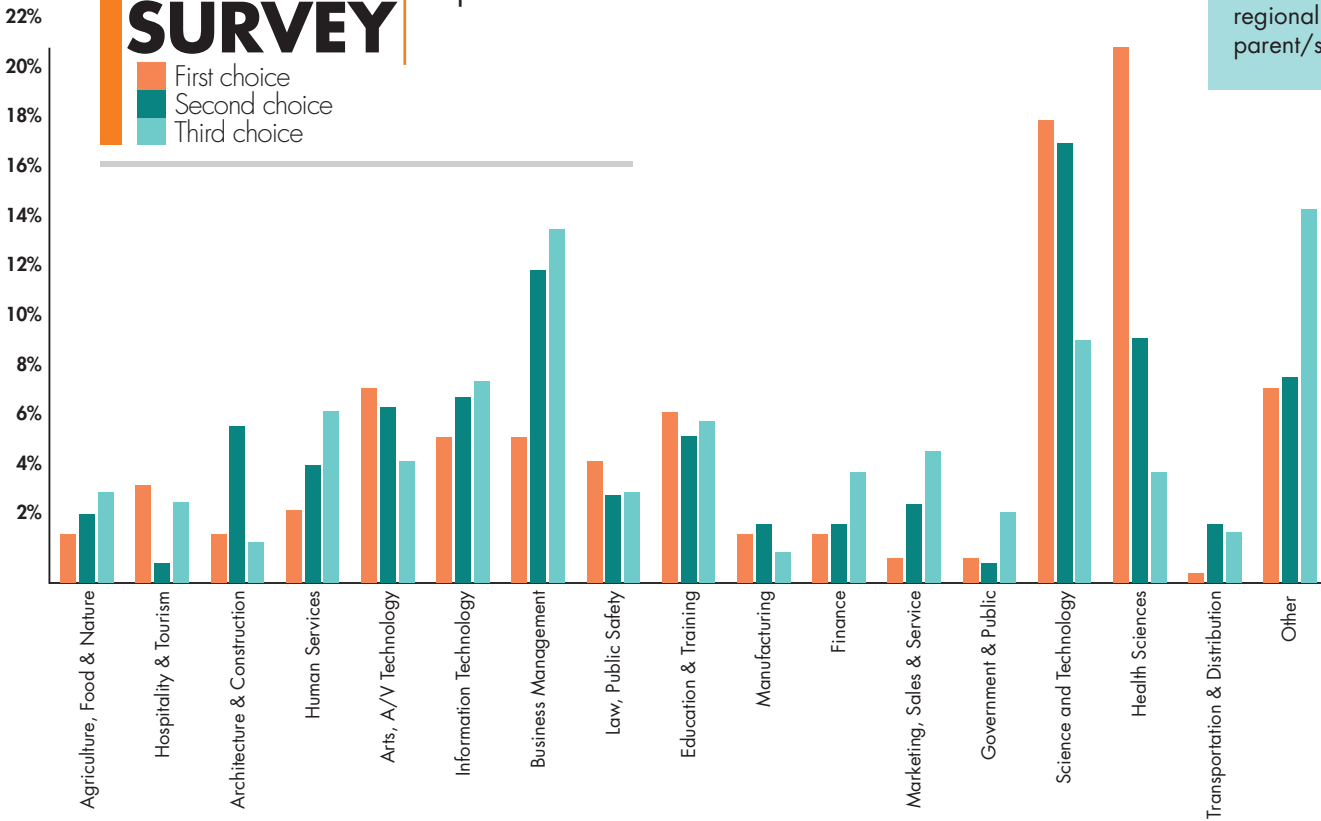
DOES YOUR COMPANY OFFER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WORK -BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?



PARENT SURVEY

Parents were asked to indicate their top 3 career interests for their student

These charts illustrate a disconnect between regional opportunities and parent/student perceptions



STUDENT SURVEY

Students were asked to indicate their top 3 career interests

Top choices by Students:

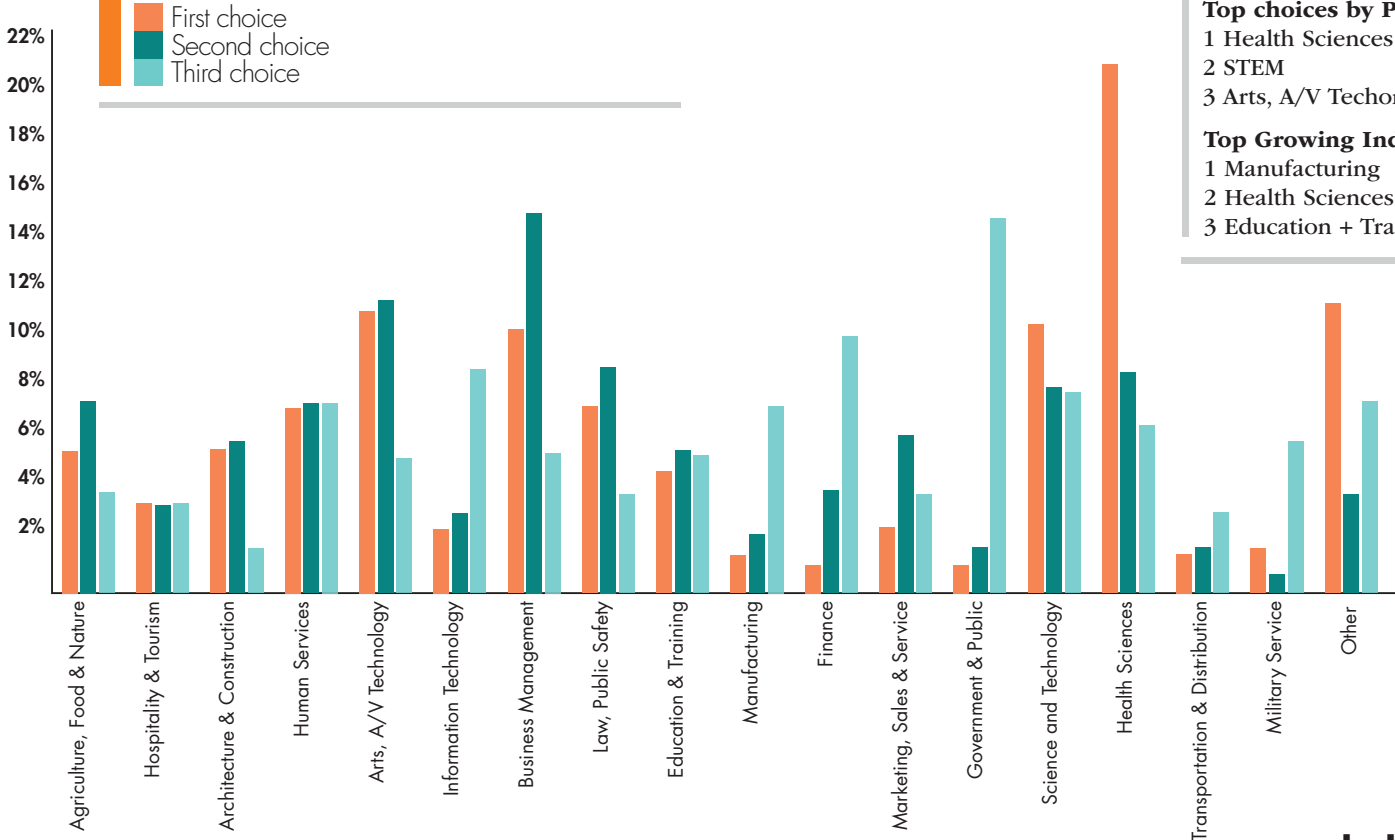
- 1 Health Sciences
- 2 Arts, A/V Technology
- 3 Business Management

Top choices by Parents:

- 1 Health Sciences
- 2 STEM
- 3 Arts, A/V Technology

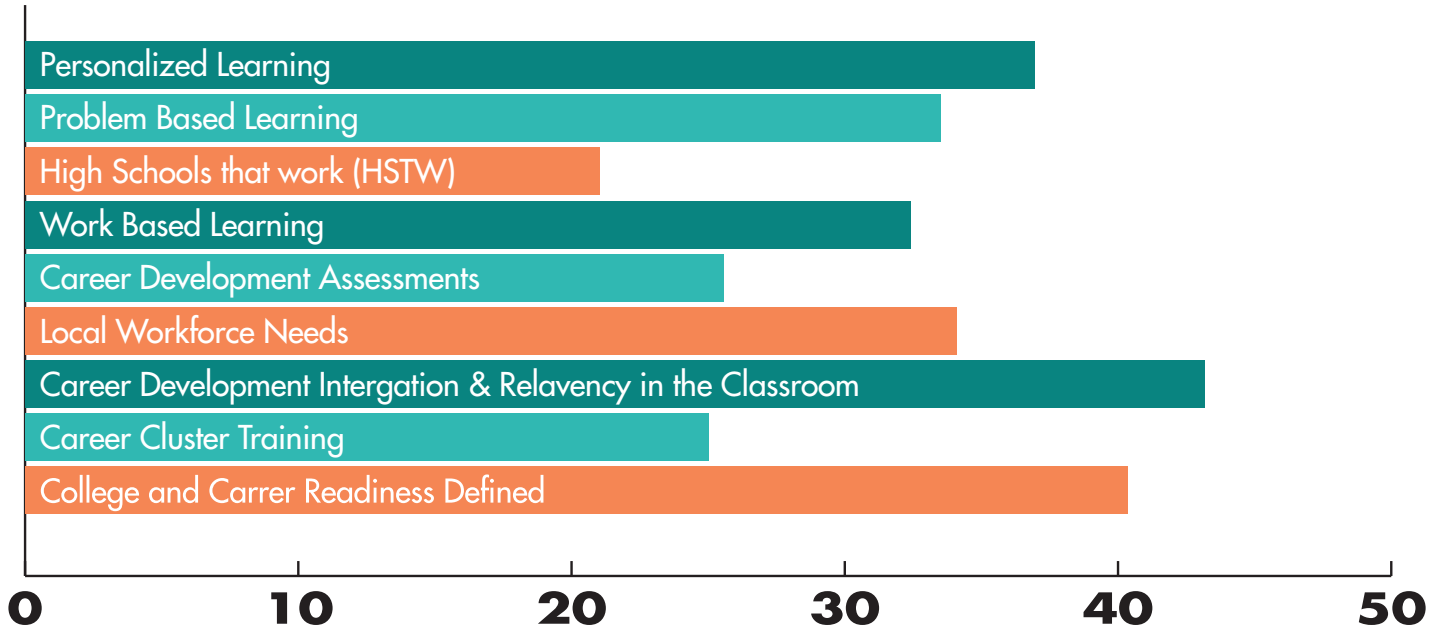
Top Growing Industries:

- 1 Manufacturing
- 2 Health Sciences
- 3 Education + Training



EDUCATOR SURVEY

WHAT TYPE OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING DO TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS AT YOUR SCHOOL NEED?



HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU WORK IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRY PRIOR TO ENTERING EDUCATION?

31.96% of teachers worked 5 years or longer in industry prior to entering education

