

There Are Many Benefits To Vocational Training

Earning a four-year degree is one path toward a rewarding career. However, that path is the only one available to aspiring professionals. Enrolling in a vocational program can provide students with the skills necessary to engage in high-demand and well-paying jobs.

Vocational school, often referred to as “trade school,” can be an advantageous route for many people who are looking for an alternative to college. In 2020, the National Center for Education Statistics said a four-year private college cost around \$50,300 for a student living on campus, while a four-year public college was roughly \$24,300 annually. A 2018 poll from The Learning House, a skills training and coursework company, found 35 percent of students said tuition and other fees were

their primary concerns when choosing college programs. Trade schools can cost three times less than other schooling, making them more palatable to young people concerned about the high costs of college.

Career and Technical Education programs number around 1,200 in the United States alone. Many students begin vocational career tracks in high school, according to American Education Services. Here are some benefits to pursuing an education in the trades.

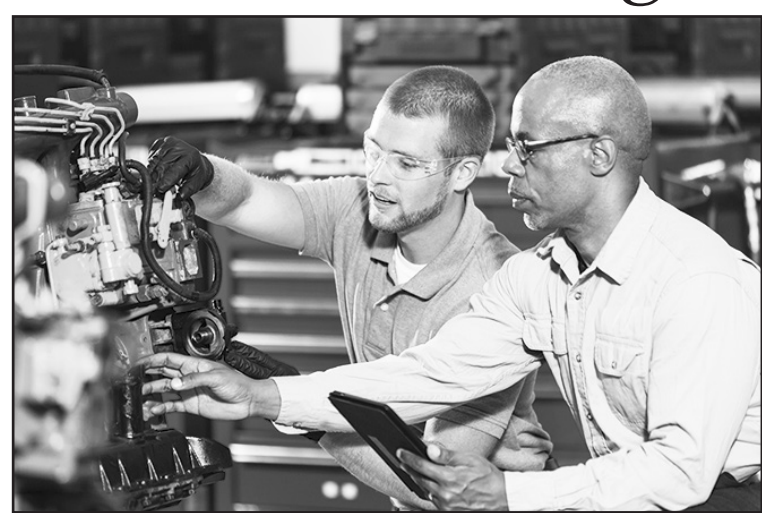
- **Lower cost:** According to NCES, trade schools cost significantly less than four-year institutions. Data from the U.S. Department of Education says programs may run between \$3,600 to \$16,000 per year. Most vocational programs last two years, meaning that students

graduate with far less debt than they might accrue when pursuing a four-year college program.

- **Individualized attention:** Many trade programs offer instruction in very intimate settings, with experienced practitioners serving as mentors and trainers. While each program is different, vocational training schools tend to have lower faculty-to-student ratios than traditional colleges.

- **Fewer admission requirements:** Trade schools may not have the same stringent application and admissions processes as colleges. Course prerequisites and grade point average requirements also may not dictate trade school admissions policies.

- **Direct, hands-on training:** Unlike a traditional college that marries general



education courses with those specific to a major, trade school programs focus only on skills and training relevant to each student’s chosen career path.

- **Less time to complete schooling:** More direct lessons means that students can complete their certifications or degrees in shorter times

and enter the workforce much more quickly than their counterparts at traditional colleges and universities.

Vocational training in trade schools is a viable option for students who want to spend less money and gain valuable skills they can utilize to earn a good living.

DRA To Host Wellness Initiative In Western Kentucky

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the U.S. Department of War are partnering once again to bring another medical mission to Western Kentucky, thanks to the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

Led by the DRA, Air National Guard, Green River Area Development District (GRADD) and City of Henderson, the 2026 Green River Area Wellness IRT Mission will provide basic medical, dental, optometry, hearing and mental health services – at no cost – to residents of Henderson, Union and Webster counties and nearby communities. This year, the IRT will offer care at three satellite locations, from June 11-21, at the following sites:

* June 11-21: North Middle School, 1701 2nd St., Henderson, Ky.

* June 11-14: Union County Middle School, 4465 US-60, Morganfield, Ky.

* June 16-19: Webster County High School, 1922 US-41 ALT, Dixon, Ky.

Services will be offered to patients ages 3 and up on a first-come, first-served basis. No income or residency requirements will be needed to receive treatment.

“This upcoming mission highlights the continued partnership between the DRA and Department of War in bringing much-needed care to residents in Delta communities across Western Kentucky,” said Christina

Wooden, DRA Health Programs Manager. “DRA is thankful for its partnership with the Department of War, which allows us to continue offering accessible care.”

As an IRT, the 2026 Green River Area Wellness Mission will provide key health care services to underserved communities within the DRA region while simultaneously serving as a military training opportunity to increase deployment readiness.

“On behalf of the United States Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard, we are honored to bring this Innovative Readiness Training medical mission to Henderson.

We know this community is resilient, and as Henderson continues to recover from last year’s flood, we are proud to support that recovery,” said Maj. Nathaniel Horwitz-Willis, Air Force Guard and Active Duty Air Force IRT Program Manager. “This IRT mission is about more than just training; it’s about our commitment to our country and its people. By providing no-cost medical, dental, and vision care, we are not only enhancing our readiness but also making a tangible difference in the lives of the people of Western Kentucky. This is a testament to the power of proactive collaboration, and we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community partners who make it all possible.”

By utilizing their extensive resources, the Air National Guard will be able to meet some of the region’s most urgent health care needs right in Western Kentucky. Some of the

services to be provided during the IRT mission include vision and wellness exams, issuance of single lens glasses, dental exams and extractions, as well as sports physical exams.

“There are so many meaningful benefits to the IRT mission,” said City of Henderson Mayor Brad Steton. “The military receives invaluable real-world training while our community gains access to no-cost dental, vision, audiology, mental health and medical services. We are proud to welcome back this opportunity to Henderson and look forward to the positive impact it will have across our region.”

The City of Henderson last hosted the Green River Area Wellness IRT Mission in 2024. During that time, military personnel completed a total of 21,710 training hours while meeting with 1,642 patients, performing 34,161 procedures, and fabricating

and/or distributing 917 eyeglasses for an estimated total of \$1.6 million in health care services provided.

“The opportunity to host the Innovative Readiness Training mission for Western Kentucky is an incredible honor for our region. This partnership represents the very best of collaboration where we are bringing together community leaders, health care partners, and the dedicated men and women of our military to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve,” said GRADD Executive Director Kenneth J. Williams. “We are deeply grateful for the chance to again welcome and host the IRT team to Western Kentucky and showcase the strength, compassion and resilience of our communities. Together, we are not only expanding access to critical services but also building lasting relationships that strengthen our region for years to come.”

City Of Dixon Receives Grant For Park Improvements

On May 12, 2026, Governor Brashear announced over \$1.3 million in funding for 36 projects in 30 counties for park improvements. The funding comes from the Waste Tire Trust Fund and is distributed through the 2026 Crumb Rubber/Tire-Derived Products Grant program, administered by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. The projects will transform recycled waste tires into safe, durable products for playgrounds and public parks.

The City of Dixon was awarded \$13,271 to purchase and install 18 park benches and 7 picnic tables at Baker Park. The new picnic tables and benches will be manufactured using approximately 1.27 tons of

crumb rubber derived from waste tires generated in Kentucky.

Mayor Terry Webb believes that receiving this grant is an exciting opportunity for our community. These improvements will create more welcoming and accessible spaces for families, seniors, and visitors, while also demonstrating the City of Dixon’s commitment to environmentally responsible practices.

The addition of new benches and picnic tables will expand seating options, improve accessibility, and provide more areas for social connection throughout Baker Park. This project is part of the City’s continued efforts to enhance recreational amenities and ensure the park remains an inclusive and inviting destination for all.

UNION COUNTY

FAIR DAYS

**Saturday, June 15 thru
Saturday, June 20**

Activities and Events For Everyone At The Union County Fair!

Highlights at this year’s fair include:

- Monday, June 15 - Baby Contest and New in 2026 Musical Entertainment in the Pavilion**
- Tuesday, June 16 - Little Miss and Mister Pageant and Miss Union County Pageant**
- Wednesday, June 17 - Miss Pre-Teen Pageant, ATV Rodeo, Miss Teen Pageant, and Musical Entertainment in the Pavilion**
- Thursday, June 18 - Pedal Tractor Pull, Dirt Drags, and Musical Entertainment in the Pavilion**
- Friday, June 19 - Tractor Pull, Fun Rodeo, and New in 2026 Musical Entertainment in the Pavilion**
- Saturday, June 20 - 4-H Country Ham Breakfast, Livestock Shows, Sunshine Day, Demo Derby, Farm Bureau Day, and Whipporwill Rodeo**

Admission to the Fair on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday is \$5.00

Rides on Those Days Are \$15.00

Scan The QR Code To Access The Digital Fair Catalog

Friday and Saturday Admission to Fair is \$20.00

Admission Price Includes Rides

www.ucfairexpo.com

-- PUBLIC HEARING --

LOCAL / STATE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Webster County Board of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education have scheduled a local/state Board public hearing on the proposed Webster County District Facility Plan for Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30pm CDT in the Webster County Board of Education Boardroom, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409. The District Facility Plan lists the pending capital construction and/or renovation projects that the school district may undertake, and the priority order, if applicable, that projects will be initiated. Copies of the proposed District Facility Plan are available for examination by interested individuals at the Board of Education offices, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409, between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM through June 16, 2026. Questions may be directed to Aaron Harrell, Superintendent of Webster County Schools, 928 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409 at 270-639-5083.

Those individuals wishing to comment on the proposed District Facility Plan may present oral or written comments at the Local / State Board public hearing.

The local Board of Education, after due process, will forward the approved District Facility Plan to the Kentucky Department of Education for ultimate approval by the State Board of Education.

The local State Board public hearing is being scheduled in accordance with KRS 157.620, and regulated by 702 KAR 1:001. 6/10c