SF-Peninsula: CTE Outcomes at a Glance

Subregional read of *Bay Region Overview: CTE Recovery Since COVID* (Center of Excellence / BACCC, October 2026)

The headline tension: SF-Peninsula has the region's steepest CTE enrollment decline but its strongest completion and earnings picture. Fewer students — better outcomes for the ones who stay.

-13% CTE headcount change, tied steepest in the Bay	**+36%** CTE completers, 2nd highest in the Bay	**$66,600** CTE exiter median earnings, highest in Bay	**+37%** K12 special admit growth, largest in the Bay

Enrollment is the problem

- CTE headcount fell **-13%** (2020 vs. 2025), tied with SC-Monterey for the steepest decline. The Bay average is -7%; statewide CTE actually grew +0.6%.
- Fall-to-spring persistence sits at **70%** in 2025 — second-lowest in the Bay, up from 68% but below the 74% regional rate.
- The CCC college-going rate for HS completers is **31%**, second-lowest after East Bay. But 46% enroll in other postsecondary and the not-enrolled rate improved from 30% to 22%, among the best in the region. The pipeline isn't disappearing — it's going elsewhere.

Dual enrollment is the bright spot

- K12 special admits grew **+37%**, the largest increase of any subregion (Bay: +18%, statewide: +45%).
- They still make up only **11%** of all students — the lowest share in the Bay — so there is real room to keep pushing.

Completions and earnings are strong

- CTE completers rose **+36%**, well above the Bay's +24% and second only to SC-Monterey (+38%).
- CTE exiter median earnings reached **$66,600** in 2024, the highest in the Bay (region: $59,420) and up +2% while the Bay average slipped -1%.
- Cost-of-living pressure is mildest here: the living wage rose just **+12%** since 2018 versus +40% Bay-wide (San Francisco +7%, San Mateo +17%).

The catch

The SF-Peninsula living wage is **$65,125** — and $71,300 in San Mateo County alone. Median CTE earnings of $66,600 clear that bar by a hair, and would not clear it at all under the MIT standard the COE plans to adopt (**$73,715** for the subregion).

Context worth naming

55% of adults 18+ in SF-Peninsula already hold a bachelor's degree or higher, the highest share in the Bay Region. The CTE value proposition here competes against a very degree-heavy market, which plausibly explains both the headcount slide and the strong earnings among those who do complete.

How SF-Peninsula compares

Metric	SF-Peninsula	Bay Region	Statewide
CTE headcount change (2020 vs. 2025)	**-13%**	-7%	+0.6%
Fall-to-spring persistence (2025)	**70%**	74%	73%
CTE completers change (2020 vs. 2025)	**+36%**	+24%	+29%
CTE exiter median earnings (2024)	**$66,600**	$59,420	$48,150
Earnings change (2020 vs. 2024)	**+2%**	-1%	+5%
Living wage change (2018 vs. 2024)	**+12%**	+40%	+54%
K12 special admit growth (2020 vs. 2025)	**+37%**	+18%	+45%
Adults 18+ with bachelor's or higher (2024)	**55%**	—	—

For the pre-work discussion

The sharpest framing is probably this: fewer students, but better outcomes for the ones who stay — is that a targeting success or an access problem?

Source: Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research / BACCC, Bay Region Overview: CTE Recovery Since COVID, October 2, 2026. Underlying data from CCCCO DataVista 3.1 (July 2026), American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles, CDE DataQuest, and the Self-Sufficiency Standard for California.