



Career and Technical Education Equipment Grants...

Capital Budget Request 2023

BACKGROUND

Three years ago, just before the pandemic, 8 pathway options were created along with the requirement that the State Board of Education study and propose any additional pathways. The State Board of Education 2022 Pathways Report articulates concerns that the current pathway options are not meeting the needs of all students to graduate from high school.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2022, 42.6% of students list the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway as meeting their Pathway Requirement to graduate. (OSPI Report to Legislature – 2022 “Graduation Pathways Snapshot, Class of 2021) This is after and/or for 2 years or more of the pandemic and 1 year of primarily remote learning. The previous Snapshot reported an 11.3% participation rate the preceding year. All districts have not had the opportunity to “grow” their CTE Pathway CTE programs to meet their students’ needs and requests more fully.

While there has been growth overall of the CTE Pathway across the state there are several “limiting factors” in fully growing the CTE Pathway in all districts. A significant limitation is the ability to stand up a rigorous high quality CTE program due to the high startup costs of equipment and curriculum, appropriate spaces and facilities much less finding qualified staff, but that is for another request.

All current and future CTE programs must meet Program Standard #7: *“CTE instructional equipment, facilities and environment are comparable to those used in the workplace.”*

IMPROVEMENT

Washington ACTE proposes the creation of CTE Startup/Renewal Grants within the Capital Budget in 2023 for districts to use in mitigating the barrier of cost to provide more student access to CTE in all districts across the state.

Many districts have increased needs for space to expand CTE programs, especially for the trades and other very specialized learning spaces.

Key elements:

- Program grants will assist struggling districts with the ability to purchase industry relevant equipment and necessary infrastructure improvements that assures the CTE program standards will be met as a result.
- In addition, the grants can also help purchase high quality curriculum and professional development for staff in launching the new CTE course and/or program.

REQUEST

Capital Budget Project request to provide \$25 million per biennium for CTE Equipment Grants to be administered by a 501(c)(3) IRS registered organization with a long history of providing support to CTE educators.