



## Career and Technical Education Funding... Staffing Ratio/Class Size Reduction Request 2023

### BACKGROUND

Enhanced (additional) funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses have been provided for in various budgets since the formal beginning of “Vocational Education” as established by the passage of the 1917 Federal Smith-Hughes Act providing federal dollars to establish and support high school vocational programs. At that time, the state of Washington, within Basic Education funding, has provided additional state dollars for OSPI-approved CTE courses through several “formula” differences to provide additional state dollars per CTE Full Time Equivalent (FTE) student.

To receive the enhanced funding for CTE courses must meet the required OSPI Program Standards. Standard #10: CTE programs are structured so that supervision, safety and the number of training stations determine the maximum number of students per classroom.” And Program Standard #7: “CTE instructional equipment, facilities and environment are comparable to those used in the workplace.”

### CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Formulas for CTE within the current education funding model have remained stagnate for a couple of decades, but with the shift in current economic, employment, and workforce development needs in our state there has been several new initiatives demanding greater access and variety of CTE programs to be provided by local school districts.

As the State Board of Education has created new requirements requiring each student to select one of eight Graduation Pathways and the focus of Career Connected Learning developing work experience through Career Launch programs for high school age

youth, school districts are working to expand their CTE opportunities for students.

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, much less finding qualified staff, but that is for another request.

### IMPROVEMENT

Costs to deliver high quality approved CTE programs takes significantly more resources, understanding, and support for districts, especially given the current demands for districts.

#### Key elements:

- Increased funding in this method will aid districts the ability in providing expanded opportunities for students to participate in the CTE Pathway while assuring that CTE program standards are met as a result.

### REQUEST

If any changes for funding Basic Education take place, please include returning the CTE Staffing Ratio/Class Size be reduced back to 19 students from 23 for CTE FTE and from 20 to 16 for Skill Center FTE to historical levels.