



Washington Association for Career and Technical Education
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SUMMARY: Return 2020 proviso increase to improve equity and access, student achievement, college preparation, and career placement for Career and Technical Education students enrolled in the eight state-recognized Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): FFA, FCCLA, DECA, FBLA, SkillsUSA, TSA, HOSA, and WCTSMA.

WHAT: The eight state-recognized Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) need stable, annual funding to support career connected learning, leadership, mentoring, and industry-based competition. The CTOS currently serve 50,000 students out of an eligible population of over 200,000 students currently involved in Career and Technical Education. The greatest barrier to equity and access to full participation for all students in Career and Technical Education is financial. Currently, state proviso funding is only \$100,000 per year, split equally between the eight CTOS (\$12,500 each). In order to eliminate barriers to equity and access, each organization needs dedicated proviso state funding of \$200,000 per year (\$1.6M total). This would be more in alignment with funding precedent given to other youth, but not educationally grounded, organizations. **In the 2020 legislative session, both chambers approved an increase to \$100,000 per CTOS (\$800,000 total) with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, this funding was line-item vetoed in response to COVID-19.**

NEED: Return \$100,000 of state funding per year for each of the eight CTOS to fully fund program support services and eliminate barriers to equity and access for student participation in the CTOS. This will expand access for students by providing a baseline for operational funding. The \$100,000 provides support for the 1 FTE required for each CTOS to run these statewide student leadership organizations, that to date have been funded by student membership dues, local fundraising, and private donations. More than ever, dues and fees are a major barrier to participation, especially for students facing socio-economic challenges, students in poverty, students dealing with homelessness, students of color, and students with disabilities – all groups who are normally the furthest from educational justice. This funding will help to prevent ongoing increases in costs to participation and continue to provide access to the critical leadership experiences provided by CTOS.

BENEFIT: The eight state-recognized CTOS are integrated in CTE classroom instruction with experiential learning methods that prepare members for college and careers; they apply classroom learning by having members put their knowledge into action through the competitive event programs as well as rigorous project-based learning activities; these activities connect to business and industry through partnerships at the local and state level providing CTOS members with realistic insight into industry and promote higher level learning and community outreach; these events promote healthy competition which, in a global economy, drives CTOS members to excel and continually improve their performance and develops a talented future workforce. The increase in funding equates to roughly \$9/student member (2017-2018 CTOS total memberships of ~45,000 students statewide/\$800,000). Initializing consistent, annual funding for the eight CTOS ensures that Career and Technical Education students have access to the required extended learning critical in all CTE programs. Even when most CTE experiences are currently virtual, CTOS are still operating – and providing leadership and real-life experiences virtually.