

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2021 Legislative Session | April 26, 2021

WOVE...Representing the Career and Technical Education field through advocacy activities, which promotes the value of CTE and the policies that are needed to support CTE practitioners, advance the field, and improve student learning. To subscribe to the WOVE Legislative Update or to view past issues, please click here.

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FINAL UPDATE:

Sine die was Sunday, April 25, where we have just completed the most unusual legislative session for all stakeholders involved. It was a remote session conducted primarily virtually with no lobbyists on campus and all public hearings conducted via Zoom. While we all wish we could go back to doing our jobs the way we have come to know over the years, there are several things that happened to make citizen advocacy more accessible for everyone to participate. I look forward to those things that allowed for more participation, like remote testimony, to continue post-pandemic as they blend in with the traditional in-person activities that we all have come to know and do.

Also, I am grateful for all who participated with us in advocating for CTE in our state! I am most grateful for those of you subscribing to the WOVE Newsletter and the individuals who regularly participated in our weekly update Leg Zooms and providing input during the session!

Budget News:

The House Passed the Senate Operating Budget ESSB 5092. The bill passed 27-22-0-0. The [conference report](#) between the two chambers for the operating budget appropriates \$52.562 billion for 2019–21 and \$59.193 billion for 2021–23.

So, how did CTE fair in this session?

Overall, we saw no loss of funding to CTE in the K12 funding formulas of the budget. Many grants we have come to depend on remain funded and for the statewide supervision of our 8 official CTSOs had the increased funding achieved last session was returned in the final budget.

MSOC rate for both CTE and Skill Centers is \$1,585.55 first year of biennium and \$1,610.92 in year two, this slight increase is due to an inflationary factor.

Skill Centers received a slight increase in funding with a reduction of the “Class Size” (Staffing Ratio) from 20 to 19. While a change of one does not seem like much, this increase provides a long-term increase. Skill centers also are now included in the use of federal funds for stabilizing enrollment counts.

\$4,000,000 of the elementary and secondary school emergency relief III account—federal appropriation from funds attributable to subsection 2001(f)(4), the American rescue plan act of 2021, P.L. 16 117-2 is provided solely for grants to school districts to expand career and technical education graduation pathway options, including career-connected learning opportunities” (*emphasis added*)

You can find more of what all is in the budget for CTE by searching the [budget document](#) pdf for key word “career” and find where CTE and other career related items are named in ‘Section V Education’ of the budget.

THE INTERIM AHEAD:

First thing to do is to reach out and thank each and every legislative member you contacted asking them to support the CTSO funding this year!

We will hold our final Weekly Leg Update Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. via [Zoom](#). Join us for a little celebration and initial planning for interim work to frame and advance CTE advocacy for the next session.