

Career and Technical Education (CTE)/(Vocational) and Skill Center Education Funding

Career and Technical Education (CTE)/Vocational and Skill Center education programs play an essential role in creating career ready graduates in Washington. These programs enrolled a combined 69,460 full-time equivalent students during the 2015-2016 school year.

Each of these programs have received enhanced funding, as compared to the general education program. However, this enhancement over general education has deteriorated over time:

In 1995, the value of the vocational enhancement was 28%. By 2014 this enhancement was reduced to 5.9%. This enhancement continues to decline for the 2015-2016 school year, the statewide average per pupil enhancement was \$133.80 or 2.12%. The current statewide average per pupil enhancement for skill center students is \$488.49 or 7.74%. The current situation has impacted the ability for programs to plan and budget for future school years, which may negatively impact program growth and limit enrollment opportunities for students.

This proposal increases CTE/vocational and skill center funding in both staffing and non-staffing areas, while also aligning the structure of the allocation with the way in which the program uses funding.

Funding provided by this proposal will increase the CTE/vocational enhancement to 14 percent, which is half of the 28 percent provided in 1995. However, this level of funding will better meet the actual expenditures required for these programs.

This request is for \$115 million for the 2017-2019 biennium and \$317 million for the 2019-2021 biennium, includes I-1351 class size increase (on a state fiscal year basis).

The proposed funding increases can be accomplished through the following four steps:

Step 1 Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)

Increase the vocational education program allocation to \$1,917.89 per pupil for the 2017-2018 school year. OSPI requests adding a vocational MSOC allocation multiplier of 1.54 from the general education MSOC rate. This multiplier is based on providing an allocation that meets vocational education program actual expenditures for the allowable vocational categories from the 2014-2015 school year adjusted for inflation. The Skill Center MSOC allocation should be increased to \$2,257.21 per pupil, which represents actual 2014-2015 school year per pupil expenditures adjusted for inflation for the 2017-2018 school year.

Step 2 Other ESA Staff Ratio (not needed if addressed in the Hold Harmless proposal)

Provide an allocation for nurses, social workers, psychologists, and guidance counselors at a rate of 5.3 staff per 1,000 student FTE for both vocational and skill center allocations. This is the same rate at which these staff members are allocated within the general education program. Currently, the vocational and Skill Center allocation is lower than the general education allocation.

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Step 3 CTE/Vocational Education Director/Principals (CTE/Vocational Programs Only)

Move the allocation for principals out of vocational education programs back to general education programs. This will align the principal allocation with where the accounting structure allows expenses for the principal's office. In lieu of a principal allocation, provide an allocation at a rate of 2.32 per 1,000 student FTE for a vocational education director (certificated instructional staff). This step would not apply to skill center allocations.

Step 4 Lower Vocational and Skill Center Class Sizes (not needed if addressed in the Hold Harmless proposal)

Provide an allocation for teachers based on an assumed class size of 19.72 for vocational programs and 16.00 for skill center programs, starting with the 2019-2020 school year. This proposed vocational class size would show progress towards the required I-1351 class size, while the proposed skill center class size would fully comply with the requirements of the initiative.

