

House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
Chairman Mike Nathe
March 12, 2025
SB 2019

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division Committee, my name is Pam Strokland, Career and Technical Education Director for Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy. I offer written testimony in support of the initial requests of SB 2019, the appropriations bill for the Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Unfortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee has made significant reductions to the agency's request, which could negatively impact CTE funding for new area career and technology centers and program expansion.

Specifically, on Page 1, Line 16, the allocation for secondary grants is set at \$7 million, only \$3 million of which is designated for new and expanding programs, despite the department's request for an additional \$22 million. This reduction threatens the ability to launch planned CTE programs across the state. Over the past two sessions, state and federal funds have supported the creation of new area career and technology centers such as the Minot Area Workforce Academy. Additional funding is now critical to support operations and expand CTE programming for students across the state without jeopardizing the existing funding for established area centers.

CTE programming is determined on community needs assessments which align to local and state workforce needs. The Minot Area Workforce Academy started with limited workforce training, adding a new commercial driving (CDL) program and expanding automotive technology, automotive collision & repair, and early childhood education. Similar to other career & technical education centers across the state, we are now eager to expand CTE experiences for students in rural North Dakota by adding programming in the in-demand occupational areas of health sciences, teaching/training, building trades, and aviation. Increased new and expanding program funding is necessary to support the operations of these programs within the area center.

On behalf of Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy, I request an increase to the \$3M new and expanding programs allocation closer to the initial \$22M request by the Department of CTE to support the new area center programs, not at the expense of reimbursing established area center programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2019.