



North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education

2021-23 Legislative Budget Priorities

For the 67th Legislative Session, the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education (ND CTE) has identified the following as budget priorities. The following change packages are increases to the agency's budget. In addition to these increases, the agency, through efficiencies and other reductions, made a 10% reduction, as directed by the Governor's Office.

CHANGE PACKAGES

Cost to Continue – \$1.5 million

Currently, high school career and technical education programs are reimbursed at our comprehensive high schools at 27% and 40% at our area Career and Technology Centers (CTCs). In order to account for increases in costs and maintain reimbursement rates, ND CTE is requesting \$1.5M for cost to continue.

New and Expanding – \$1.5 million

Every year, new career and technical education programs are introduced and make substantial expansions. In order to support these programs, but not at the expense to reimbursement of existing programs, ND CTE is requesting \$1.5 million.

New and Expanding CTE Centers – \$40 million

Currently, there are ten regional area Career and Technology Centers (CTCs) in North Dakota. Instruction at the CTCs varies. It can be provided face-to-face, online, or through interactive television (ITV). Five of the CTCs are considered brick and mortar centers. The other five are considered virtual, meaning they lack a central physical space. A total of eight of the ten CTCs provide distance instruction, whether through ITV and/or online. The virtual centers are almost exclusively distance, but still provide a level of face-to-face hands-on instruction for every program.

The ND CTE approves the operation of the CTCs, approves their programming and supports them through funding and technical assistance. The CTCs also raise revenue through center membership and course enrollment fees. The ten area CTCs currently have a school district membership totaling 100 school districts.

Career and technical education is available to every high school student in the state; what the CTCs can provide is career specific coursework. This can be done because a CTC is able to scale coursework by providing courses to multiple school districts at the same time.

Another benefit is that CTCs employ an administrator whose primary focus is career and technical education. This focus allows the administrator time to build quality programs, foster employer partnerships, and advocate for career and technical education. It is not that local district superintendents and principals do not do a good job at this, they simply don't often have the time for that level of commitment.

The request is to provide funding to expand access to CTCs through center expansion and start up grants. This would be a \$40 million competitive matching grant program. To ensure partnership and industry alignment, applications will be reviewed by a team comprised of representatives from the ND CTE, Department of Public Instruction, Job Service ND, the Department of Commerce, and the ND Workforce Development Council. This idea stems from the success that has been seen from the current CTCs. Applicants will be required to ensure there is industry and community support, higher education partnership including dual credit and postsecondary offerings, and commitment from school districts to agree to partner with the center.

New and Expanding CTE Center Operating – \$2 million

The intent of this change package is to support the operating of any new area CTCs that happen to come online during the 2021-23 biennium.

Revised Funding Model – \$3 million

The ND CTE has been exploring various models of funding career and technical education programs. The intent of this funding is to support all programs equally. Currently, Family and Consumer Science Education and Business Education programs receive lower reimbursement rates and are not totally funded. Also, the state does not currently support Middle School CTE programs. This funding could provide opportunities to expand access.

Center for Distance Education – Funding Student Choice and Opportunity – \$1,051,449

Center for Distance Education (CDE) exists to guarantee that every K-12 North Dakota student, regardless of where they live, has the opportunity to learn what they want, when they want. CDE is requesting \$6.7 million in general funds to ensure that over 11,000 online courses can be taken by all of ND's K-12 students and over 3,400 of ND's students can continue to have access to blended learning opportunities through project-based learning labs. The executive budget reduced CDE's general fund appropriation to \$5.8 million from its 19-21 biennium level of \$6.3 million. This reduction has the potential to reduce CDE's capacity by 1,500 online course enrollments at a time when need of CDE's services continues to grow.