



January 6, 2023

Members of the House Appropriations – Education & Energy Division:

Good morning, workforce needs for the state will be a dominant topic during this session, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) serves as a critical component in the development of our state’s workforce pipeline. CTE’s ability to provide students with career awareness, hands-on learning experiences, connections to post-secondary education, opportunities to obtain industry credentials, and alignment with industry in providing work-based learning opportunities positions CTE to engage and retain our youth within our state’s high demand career pathways.

Today’s CTE has evolved from a limited number of vocational programs into a broad system that is constantly evolving due to the changing global economy and emerging workforce needs. CTE provides students with core academic skills, job-specific technical skills, employability workplace values, career pathways, and career advancement. CTE is makes a positive impact for both the Grand Forks Public Schools and member schools of the Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center by providing relevant learning experiences for students that align with their future career goals.

Our students are developing leadership skills through their active involvement in Career Technical Student Organizations such as FFA, DECA, Skills-USA, HOSA, FBLA, FCCLA, and TSA. CTE is partnering with post-secondary to align program offerings and expand dual credit opportunities for students. Through work-based learning opportunities, industry certifications, and collaboration with industry, students are provided a competitive advantage in preparing for their future career pathway to become part of the state’s workforce pipeline.

The expansion of high quality CTE programs was evident with the statewide interest and support for the proposed CTE Centers, including the Career Impact Academy application approved to serve the Grand Forks region. HB1019 provides the critical financial support to support, and expand the availability of CTE programs to students across the state. Specifically, an increased allocation of funding being requested is critical to support the new and expanding programs of the approved CTE Centers, along with the cost to continue existing programs, is paramount to the enhancement of CTE.

As a member of the 68th Legislative Assembly, you will have the opportunity to support CTE as an investment into meeting our state’s workforce challenges. I respectfully ask your support of HB1019, which supports the goals and objectives of Career & Technical Education.

Sincerely,

Eric Ripley
Executive Director of CTE & Technology
Grand Forks Public Schools
Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center