

2023-25 Department of Career and Technical Education Legislative Priorities



For the 68th Legislative Session, the Department of Career and Technical Education has identified the following budget priorities. The requests are both increases to the agency's base budget and one-time items.

Ongoing Requests – To be included in the base budget:

Cost to Continue – \$4 million

Currently, high school Career and Technical Education programs are reimbursed at our comprehensive high schools at 27% and at the Area Career and Technology Centers at 40%. To account for increases in costs and maintain reimbursement rates, the Department is requesting \$4 million for cost to continue.

New and Expanding Programs – \$23 million

Every year, new CTE programs are introduced and make substantial expansions. To support these programs, not at the expense to reimbursement of existing programs, the agency is requesting \$20 million. This will provide funding for new programs at comprehensive high schools, existing, and new Area Career and Technology Centers. The new Centers were funded with the CTE Capital Projects Grant in the 2021-23 biennium and will begin operation in the 2023-25 biennium. This funding will continue to provide for more equitable access to diverse and quality CTE programs to more students in more areas of the state. New programs must align with in-demand occupations, as identified by the North Dakota Workforce Development Council.

The Department of Career and Technical Education would also include in this request funds to enable the Department to fund access to a career advisor for every school district across the state. Career Advisors would support counselors by assisting students with career exploration. Currently school counselors are beyond capacity assisting students with social and academic needs. Career Advisor's sole responsibility would be career exploration. This would fund approximately 90 career advisors across the state, both years of the biennium. \$3 million would be set aside for funding Career Advisors. This also would support legislation passed in the 2021 session that adjusted the ratio of counselors required in our schools. Career Advisors can assist in filling that ratio.

Work-Based Learning Coordinators – \$3 million

To continue to expand work-based learning opportunities, the Department of Career and Technical Education is requesting \$3 million to provide full funding for up to sixteen Work-Based Learning coordinators. The WBL Coordinators are to be located throughout the state, primarily housed at Area Career and Technology Centers. These positions would be the conduit between education and business, developing work-based learning opportunities as well as support the Learn Everywhere Initiative, as passed by the 67th Legislative Assembly.

Workforce Training – \$2 million

Due to the continuing workforce training needs of the state, TrainND is requesting an additional \$2 million in funding. Currently, the four TrainND regions have a biennial state appropriation of \$2 million. These additional funds would be used to update equipment and training to address the ever evolving workforce needs of the state. This would also provide funding for TrainND to have a presence in parts of the state where a gap in workforce training exists.

Funding for Additional FTE at Department of CTE – \$198,000 per FTE

As Career and Technical Education continues to grow, the workload for CTE staff continues to rise. Programs continue to increase in number and diversity and more alternate teachers are entering the classrooms which requires more attention of Department of CTE staff. This will provide adequate time for the Program Area Supervisors to provide more direct technical assistance to instructors, therefore ensuring quality CTE programs and improving instructor retention. The Department has been extremely frugal in its FTE count, decreasing staffing from 27.5 FTE in the 2013-15 biennium to 21.5 in the 2021-23 biennium. This is as lean as the agency can be and the Department now needs to look to expand to ensure we continue to provide services. The Department is requesting four additional program supervisors for our largest program areas.

Funding for Additional FTE at Center for Distance Education – \$198,000 per FTE

The Center for Distance Education is requesting funding for an additional three FTE for instructional staff for academic areas that have historically large enrollment numbers. Areas of high enrollment include Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and English. NDCDE will determine where to assign FTEs that are provided.

One-Time Optional Requests:

Continuation of New and Expanding CTE Centers – \$88,276,228

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Department of Career and Technical Education was appropriated \$88.3 million for the intent to fund new and expanding CTE Centers. Due to delays in receiving the funds from the US Treasury, the funds have not been distributed. The Department is requesting a continuation of these funds into the 2023-25 Legislative session. It is also requested the Legislature consider a different funding source as the federal Coronavirus Capital Project Funds (\$68,276,228) have not been made available to the Department of Career and Technical Education.

New and Expanding CTE Centers Inflation Impact – \$40 million

Due to the delay in receipt of the federal Coronavirus Capital Projects funds and inflationary costs, grantees will be unable to deliver what was stated in the applications. The Department is requesting \$40 million, to grant out to awarded applicants, to deliver upon their submitted and approved 2022 applications.

CTE Centers Not Approved in 2021-23 – \$20 million

Although thirteen different projects were funded across the state during the 2021-23 biennium, there are still gaps in the state that are not served by Area Career and Technical Education Centers. This funding is to continue the initiative, started in the 2021 Legislative Session, to close the gaps on access to quality and diverse CTE programming.