



PA Schools Work When They Can Offer Students Career & Technical Education (CTE)



Career & Technical Education
is key to
preparing a workforce
to immediately enter a competitive economy.

PPC Report: Setting the Standard for Career and Technical Education in Pennsylvania

Career and technical education (CTE) is key to ensuring that Pennsylvania properly educates and prepares a workforce to immediately enter a competitive economy, boasts a guaranteed return on investment for our state's businesses, and should be available to all public-school students. Policymakers understand the value of career and technical education, because they provided support to CTE in both the FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 budgets, as well as more recently by allocating federal stimulus funding via Governor's Emergency Education Relief, or GEER, funds directed to career and technical centers (CTCs) in both 2020 and early 2021. While this relief is much needed during the pandemic, the GEER funds are a one-time allotment and will not assist with ongoing specialized costs borne by CTCs, nor will they address the state's historic funding problems with CTE funding.

The state Career and Technical Education Subsidy in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's budget represents less than 8% of the total cost to fund career and technical education, and federal Carl D. Perkins funding covers roughly 2% of a CTC's budget. That leaves member school districts paying approximately 90% of the overall budget to send students to CTCs.

MARCH 2021



Skilled Workers Needed:

Ensuring
Investments
in CTE



74 CTCs EDUCATING 55,820 STUDENTS IN PA

**90% OF OVERALL BUDGET PAID BY
MEMBER DISTRICTS TO SEND STUDENTS**



**\$10 MILLION NEEDED FOR CTE SUBSIDY
IN 2021-22 STATE BUDGET**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO PA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Policymakers must continue to make sustained investments in CTE. PA Schools Work asks for a \$10 million increase in CTE funding in the 2021-22 budget: \$7 million for the CTE Subsidy line and \$3 million for the Equipment Grant line in the Department of Education's budget.

Funding for CTE, which is heavily reliant on state share, is inherently tied to adequate funding for basic education in Pennsylvania. While recent investments in basic education funding and the enactment of the basic education funding formula are notable achievements, without significant infusions into basic education funding, CTE funding will continue to lag.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional challenges in K-12 education, and CTE is no exception. CTCs have a unique set of circumstances to consider regarding the health and safety of students and staff. Whether that be new equipment needs, to modifying instruction to adapt to a virtual environment, these new costs could not be predicted but are essential to programming.

Importance of 2020-21 Budget Investment

While an increased investment was unfortunately not made a priority in the Governor's proposed budget, the legislature can capitalize on this opportunity and again make an increase of \$10 million in CTE in the budget. The best use of this investment would be \$7 million appropriated through the Career and Technical Education Subsidy line and \$3 million allocated through the formula-driven Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant line.

Career and technical education is an integral part of the state system of economic and workforce development, and with support for CTE in the legislature, the business community and elsewhere at an all-time high, the failure to build on the momentum achieved in past budgets - and during a pandemic when the need for skilled, front-line workers is paramount - makes little sense.



PA Schools Work is a coalition of organizations from across Pennsylvania representing teachers and other educators; urban, suburban and rural communities; and parents and other community members working together to advocate for PA public schools, their students and the communities they serve.

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