



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Testimony
Basic Education Funding Commission
Career and Technical Education
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Chairman Browne, Chairman Vereb, and members of the Basic Education Funding Commission, my name is Lee Burket and I am the Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education at the Department of Education. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit comments regarding career and technical education in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Bureau of Career and Technical Education supports the following entities through regulation, policy and funding.

	Number of Schools/Campuses	Programs with Enrollments	Enrollments
Secondary	221—135 high schools and 86 CTCs	1,727 at CIP Level	64,780
Postsecondary	34	1,217	85,455
Adult	74	433	14,835

Career and Technical Centers (CTCs)

CTCs are joint schools consisting of school districts within an approved Area Vocational Technical School attendance area that agree to offer their students career and technical education at a common location/campus. As a member of a CTC, each member school district has representation on the joint operating committee (JOC). The JOC performs the same duties as a school board, which includes approving the CTC budget. Each member school district funds the operation of the CTC. The articles of agreement determine how the school districts fund the CTC.

There are 86 CTCs in Pennsylvania; this includes each of the campuses associated with a CTC. For example, Chester County CTC has three campuses.

The JOC makes a decision on what type of CTC to run. There are two types of CTCs. Comprehensive CTCs offer students both academic courses and technical programs. Occupational CTCs offer only technical programs, and enrolled students receive their academic coursework at their school district of residence.

There are thirteen comprehensive CTCs and 60 occupational CTCs.

State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Budget

The 2014-15 General Appropriations Act includes a \$62 million state appropriation for CTE. The career and technical education programs funded by this appropriation are those which contribute to the total statewide system of career and technical education through preparation of properly certified career and technical personnel, development of curriculum materials for high priority occupations, development of programs and materials to promote sex equity in career and technical education programs, and reimbursement of secondary institutions for technical preparation provided to secondary pupils and adults. The appropriation is distributed as follows:

- Secondary VADM, \$49,639,000;
- Career and Technical Student Organization, \$291,000;
- Personnel Development, \$3,220,000;

Curriculum Development, \$437,000;
Licensed Practical Nursing, \$4,150,000;
Adult Affidavit and Travel \$1,800,000;
Economic Development, \$115,000;
Competitive Grants \$2,348,000

This appropriation is a major component on Pennsylvania's maintenance of effort, which is required to be eligible for and to continue receiving federal vocational education funds. The maintenance of effort is a federal Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 requirement. The state must retain the same level of funding as it did in the previous year. The exception to this is if the federal grant decreases or the state spends less federal dollars, the state can then cut the state support by a proportionate amount.

The funding provided by this appropriation subsidizes school districts, career and technical education centers, area vocational-technical schools and charter schools that operate approved secondary career and technical education programs. The funds are formula driven. The formula for the SCTES is described in section 2502.8 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

Reimbursement is provided for the following vocational programs: agriculture education, distributive education, health occupations education, home economics education (gainful), business education, technical education, trade and industrial education, or any other occupational-oriented program approved by the Secretary of Education.

The subsidy is calculated using factors such as vocational average daily attendance, state median actual instructional costs, market value/personal income aid ratio. CTCs receive a slightly higher payment than school districts or charter schools. The multiplier for CTCs is .1 and school districts and charter schools are .17.

The Career and Technical appropriation has remained level over the past six fiscal years. As a result, a reduction factor has been applied to the formula so subsidy payments to school districts, CTC's, and other entities do not exceed available funds. The department estimates that an additional \$7 million is needed to meet the demand for career and technical education. In addition to the Secondary Career and Technical Education Subsidy, the appropriation supports the Adult Affidavit and Travel and Licensed Practical Nursing programs. Both are formula driven.

Federal CTE Budget

Currently Pennsylvania receives \$40 million related to the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary recipients through a formula. Recipients must use the funds to improve academic and technical skills of students through integration of academic standards with technical content.

The federal funds support the secondary schools, the 34 postsecondary entities and the 74 school districts and CTCs that offer adults career and technical education programs.

Key Issues and Challenges Facing Career and Technical Education

1. Academic achievement levels of students enrolled in career and technical education
2. Recruiting and retaining students who can meet the academic challenges required by businesses and industry
3. Adequate services for special education students enrolled in career and technical education
4. Guidance counselor's role with career guidance
5. Maintenance of Effort/Perkins requirement
6. Structure of CTC