

Senate Bill 148
Career and Job Skills Education Act
Senator McGuire

SUMMARY

According to the U.S. 2010 Census, **in California almost 70 % of high school graduates will not go on to receive a four year college degree.** Students of today require career, technical and job skills programs to ensure they have the tools necessary to thrive in California's rebounding economy. SB 148 restores the State's commitment to Career Technical Education (CTE) by appropriating \$600M to a CTE incentive grant program for local school districts, joint power authorities, and regional occupational centers and programs (ROCPS).

BACKGROUND

Investment in CTE not only decreases high school drop-out rates, but creates tangible job skills for our future work force. According to the Association for Career and Technical Education:

- 70 % of secondary CTE students go on to pursue higher education shortly after high school.
- 81 % of high school drop-outs say relevant, real-world learning opportunities would have kept them in school.
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90 %, compared to an average freshman graduation rate of 75 %.

PROBLEM

CTE investment is at a historic low. Even with this bill's proposed allocation, there will be \$25M less available than the sum of the current ROCP Maintenance of Effort (MOE) (\$375M) and the Pathway Trust Grants (\$250M). In the wake of the numerous dramatic changes made to the State's education financing structure, we have witnessed a wholesale diversion of vocational education resources. In FY 2007-08, ROCPS received an annual appropriation of over \$480M – which does not include appropriations for other CTE categorical programs (e.g. Partnership Academies, Agriculture Incentive Grants and Secondary School Programs).

During the “categorical flex” era, Governor Schwarzenegger cut back the ROCP appropriation to approximately \$375M. This amount had been annually appropriated as a budget line item until the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was implemented in FY 2013-14. Since that time, districts and county offices

of education have been under a MOE requirement instructing them to continue their support for ROCP's at the FY 2012-13 levels for a two-year period ending June 30, 2015. The money will then be absorbed into the LCFF and no longer be dedicated to CTE. In addition, the state has also annually appropriated \$250M for the Career Pathways Trust Grant each of the past two years. The funds allocated in this bill will not reinstate CTE at its historical high, but will maintain a level of service that CTE requires.

SOLUTION

The Career and Job Skills Education Act closely resembles the CTE incentive matching grant program outlined in the Governor's 2015-16 budget proposal. However, SB 148 expands upon the \$250M allocation currently proposed by the Administration. SB 148 will ensure funds are directly invested in CTE while respecting LCFF. Specifically, it seeks to:

- Mandate rigorous performance standards and accountability measures based on student outcomes.
- Streamline and minimize administrative burden by aligning the state with the federal Perkins grant reporting requirements.
- Create a dollar-for dollar matching program to ensure local commitment.
- Honor the premise of Local Control Funding Formula by offering incentive funds only to those districts that choose to apply.
- Accelerate the development of new and expanded high-quality CTE programs for three years and provides opportunities for program growth.
- In addition to qualifying for the grant, the bill also seeks to lift up rural and disadvantaged communities by setting aside 2 percent to provide additional funding for rural districts and regions with higher than average rates of high school dropouts.

STATUS

Senate Rules -pending referral.

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