
The FISCAL REPORT *an informational update*

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California Career-Technical Education Incentive Grant Program

Following the release of Governor Jerry Brown's 2015-16 State Budget proposal, the Department of Finance has released the accompanying Budget trailer bill language. These trailer bills provide the details of the Governor's proposals, including his plan to provide additional career-technical education (CTE) funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) over the next three years.

The California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant is the Governor's plan to provide dedicated funding for CTE beginning July 1, 2015, until the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year. The program would establish an annual amount of \$250 million for which applicants must compete. Grant recipients may include school districts, county offices of education, direct-funded charter schools, or regional occupational centers or programs. The Governor's intention is to provide additional, temporary funds to "encourage and maintain" CTE programs while the Local Control Funding Formula provides incremental CTE funding increases through its implementation of the 9-12 grade span adjustment.

Applicants, which will be required to make a dollar-for-dollar match of funding from local sources, will need to plan for continued CTE support after grant funding expires. LEAs would be eligible for an award of grant money by meeting the following requirements:

- Offer high quality curriculum and instruction aligned with the CTE Model Curriculum Standards
- Provide students with quality career exploration, guidance, pupil support, and leadership development
- Have documented regional or local partnerships with postsecondary institutions, industry, and labor
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in after-school, extended day, and out-of-school internships, competitions, and other work-based learning opportunities.
- Reflect regional or local labor market demands and focus on current or emerging high skill training or employment
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate, or appropriate post-secondary training or employment
- Have skilled teachers or faculty and provide professional development opportunities for those teachers or faculty members
- Report data to allow for an evaluation of the program and to "maintain accountability"

Applicants awarded a grant from this program in the 2015-16 fiscal year are eligible to receive a renewal in each subsequent fiscal year until the program ends July 1, 2018. Renewal grant eligibility is determined by the California Department of Education (CDE), in collaboration with the California State Board of Education (SBE), and is based upon success in achieving positive outcomes as indicated by students completing coursework, enrolling in postsecondary education or job training, or being employed.

When determining grant money, the CDE will supply a list of recommended new or renewed grant recipients and the SBE will review and approve. Priority will be given to programs that successfully leverage requirements and resources of existing CTE programs and contributions from industry, labor, or philanthropic sources. The SBE will also give priority to applicants that plan significant investment in CTE infrastructure and equipment.

Next Steps

It is important to note that we are in the second month of a six-month process to propose, discuss, and ultimately adopt the 2015-16 State Budget. This proposal, along with other ideas, will be debated throughout the spring and could ultimately look very different from the Governor's original plan. Stay tuned.

—Thomas Riebe-Ricketts and Michelle McKay Underwood