

K-12 Education (I): Page 10

Career-Technical Education (CTE) Flexibility

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- State's current K-12 CTE system is inconsistent in its approach: (1) some K-12 CTE programs were made "flexible" last year, some not; (2) funding rules vary by program; (3) many compliance-oriented requirements; and (4) inconsistent student performance expectations.

Current K-12 Career-Technical Education System		
<i>(In Millions)</i>		
Program	Flexible?	2010-11 Amount
Regional Occupational Centers/Programs	Yes	\$383.4
Partnership Academies	No	18.8
Apprenticeship Programs	No	15.6
Specialized Secondary Programs	Yes	4.9
Agricultural Vocational Education	No	4.1
Total		\$426.8

- Governor and Assembly propose no changes to current K-12 CTE system.
- Senate consolidates five programs (\$427 million) into one large CTE block grant.

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- Recommend adopting Senate's approach and creating CTE block grant.
- Funding rules:
 - Each county would receive same amount of CTE funding as received last year for all local education agencies within county.
 - Existing partnership academy, agricultural vocational education, and specialized secondary grants would be honored. New arrangements could be made only after existing agreements fulfilled.
 - Moving forward, each county and the districts within it would negotiate agreements regarding how to distribute and use CTE funds.
- In return for flexibility, recipients held accountable for student outcomes, including: (1) completion of occupational course sequences in high-wage, high-demand industries; (2) completion of CTE coursework articulated with local community college prerequisites, (3) high school graduation rates, and (4) reduction in the need for remediation upon entering related postsecondary/industry program.