2027

The Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education (OkACTE) supports legislation and public policy that preserves the integrity of Oklahoma's Career and Technology Education system while promoting workforce readiness and economic vitality.

OKLAHOMA ACTE

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Student Pathways & Access

Ensure every Oklahoman has access to clear, affordable and meaningful education and training pathways—from early career exploration through graduation, credentials, apprenticeships and employment.

- **Adult Education & Family Literacy:** Reinstate state funding for AEFL programs following the transition from SDE oversight to ODCTE.
- **Graduation Requirements: :** Clarify and improve graduation requirements to address issues and confusion resulting from HB 3021.
- **Middle School Career Exploration:** Fund middle school career exploration programs in technology centers and comprehensive schools.
- **Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning:** Expand high-quality apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities for secondary students while maintaining appropriate educational, safety and accountability standards.
- **Oklahoma's Promise:** Include provisional teacher certification pathways in eligibility for Oklahoma's Promise.
- **Certification & Credential Testing:** Support state-funded certification and credential testing to reduce financial barriers for students.
- **Apprenticeship Nursing:** Initiate a statewide conversation and coalition to develop and support apprenticeship-based nursing pathways.

Workforce Capacity & State Investment

Strengthen Oklahoma's workforce by strategically investing in CareerTech programs, facilities and training capacity to meet growing student demand and respond to the needs of high-demand industries.

- **CareerTech Training Capacity:** Support strategic state investment that expands CareerTech training capacity in high-demand occupations and addresses barriers created by growing enrollment demand.

Educator Recruitment, Retention & Retirement

Build and sustain a strong CareerTech workforce by advancing policies that help Oklahoma recruit talented educators, retain experienced professionals and provide competitive, flexible retirement options.

- **ODCTE Retirement Options:** Support a secondary retirement option for eligible ODCTE employees.
- **Teacher Retirement:** Support improvements to teacher retirement, including consideration of a T-DROP-style option.
- **School Insurance Costs:** Support policies that address rising school insurance costs and improve affordability and predictability.

System Operations, Local Finance & Accountability

Modernize policies and remove operational barriers so CareerTech institutions can effectively manage resources, protect taxpayer investments and continue responding efficiently to the communities they serve.

- **Credit Card Transaction Fees:** Include technology centers in legislation allowing applicable credit card transaction fees to be passed through to the individual making the payment.
- **County Assessor Communication:** Support statutory clarity regarding county assessors' ability to communicate about shared or overlapping property valuations.

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Investing in Oklahomans

OKLAHOMA CareerTech

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

FY28

FY27 General Appropriation 181,687,904

- **Flex Benefit Allowance: $3,720,000**
  - Meet the statutory requirement of funding the flex benefit allowance for the technology centers (Title 70. Schools §70-26-104)
- **Postsecondary Workforce Training: $27,650,000**
  - Full-time training (removing waitlists) $24,150,00
  - Apprenticeships $3,500,000
- **K-12 CareerTech Program Support: $10,500,000**
  - To support the implementation of new programs and curricula, as well as strengthen and expand the integrated student organizations : BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA and TSA
- **Adult Education and Family Literacy: $5,500,000**
  - Empower adults with the literacy, knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the workplace and achieve self-sufficiency
- **Foundation CTE For All Students Grades 5-12: $16,000,000**
  - Building a statewide approach to career exploration
- **Technology Center Expansion Incentive:**
  - Allocations available to technology centers to expand services into areas of Oklahoma not currently served by a technology center. A one-time request $10,000,000

Total FY28 Appropriations Increase Requested $73,370,000

TOTAL FY28 Appropriations Request $255,057,904

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