

2022 Legislative Agenda



The Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education, OkACTE, advocates for policy and legislation that best serves and protects the integrity of the Oklahoma Career and Technology system. OkACTE's Legislative Agenda lists objectives for legislative action at the state level on issues that affect the Oklahoma CareerTech System. This document is typically issued each January, prior to Legislative Session, and is focus of the Executive Director while at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

FUNDING AND RELATED PRIORITIES

- Fully fund the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education's 2023 budget increase by 34 million, of which will:
 - Increase support for existing K-12 CTE Programs (411 & 412 funding)
 - Increase enrollment capacity at Technology Centers
 - Increase training services to Oklahoma's Employers
 - Increase services at Oklahoma Skills Centers
 - Fully fund of the Flex Benefit Allowance for all educational employees
- Support full funding of the Oklahoma Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund
- Expand Oklahoma's state minimum salary schedule to recognize teachers serving more than 25 years.
- Support a Cost of Living Adjustment for all TRS retirees.

CAREER GUIDANCE & ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Support continued professional development to fully implement Individualized Career Academic Plans (ICAP) for all students.
- Re-align Oklahoma's high school graduation requirements by eliminating the dual diploma system and creating graduation requirements that allow students to best pursue their careers of choice as identified through the Individualized Academic and Career Plan (ICAP) process.
- Allow students to transcript imbedded academic content gained through high quality career and technical education programs.
- Ensure that Oklahoma's promise is available to all eligible students including those who participate in high quality career and technical education programs at Technology Centers.

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Fully support legislation that encourages sound growth in emerging and expanding industries such as but not limited to film, movies, music, aerospace, manufacturing and healthcare.
- Support legislation that provides all taxing jurisdictions an equal voice in the development and approval of economic development incentives such as Tax Increment Financing districts.
- Support legislation that streamlines and further clarifies the protesting process for Oil, Gas & Wind in regards to school ad valorem dollars.
- Support expansion of work-based learning opportunities that ensure the availability of a highly skilled workforce for Oklahoma employers.
- Support legislation that reduces employer risk when partnering with educational entities to provide work-based learning opportunities for students
- Support legislation that promotes expansion of industry and education and industry partnerships to ensure all employers have access to a highly skilled/highly educated workforce.
- Support legislation encouraging Law Enforcement and Public Safety training partnerships.

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

OkACTE actively works to promote awareness of the following items for OkACTE membership.

- ◆ *Maintain the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech as an independent state agency supporting all facets of Oklahoma's career and technical education programs.*
- ◆ *Maintain the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement as a stand-alone retirement system with the existing defined benefit plan.*
- ◆ *Support local control for Boards of Education in making educational and financial decisions.*

Optimizing Workforce Development for Oklahoma

FY21 General Appropriation\$133,470,385

Being mindful of the current economic situation, it is critical to keep the workforce development steady in these challenging times. To do our part as CareerTech, our request is to maintain our FY21 budget as of July 1, 2020.

FY22 General Appropriation Request.....\$133,470,385

Additional investment opportunities needed:

- Support growth of current unfunded programs in PK-12 schools, such as agricultural education, family and consumer sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math; business, marketing and information technology \$1,200,000
- Expand Skills Centers and dropout recovery to meet the needs of individuals working to reach their career goals while turning the corner in their lives.....\$750,000
- Meet the statutory requirement of funding flex benefit allowance for technology centers..... \$805,541
- Enrich industry sectors with customized training and specialized workforce educational programs in all delivery arms meeting the needs of these industries: aerospace, agriculture, construction, energy, health, information technology, manufacturing and transportation..... \$6,200,000

