

2023 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. Our legislative priorities reflect our commitment to fostering a skilled workforce and strengthening Oklahoma's economy.

CAREER GUIDANCE & ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- * Support changes to the College Prep/Work Ready graduation requirements to validate the importance of CTE courses in preparing students for their future. Acknowledge industry recognized credentials as a positive outcome of PK-12 education.
- * 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

- * 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.
- * 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 reduces employer risk when partnering with educational entities to provide work-based learning opportunities for students.
- * Support the implementation of a pilot program to allow diploma RN program to be created at four technology centers. The programs must be offered in cooperation with higher education institution and an industry partner.

FUNDING & RELATED PRIORITIES

- * Fully fund the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education's 2024 budget increase by \$55,701,865 million of which will:
 - Increase support for existing PK-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
- * Maintain the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech as an independent state agency supporting all facets of Oklahoma's Career and Technology Education programs.
- * Support full funding of the Oklahoma Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.
- * Support the restoration and/or increase of funding of critical social services to insure that all citizens have access to the support they need to eliminate barriers which keep them from bettering their situations through education.
- * Oppose any voucher proposal that takes away funding or resources from public education.
- * Support a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all TRS retirees.
- * Continue and strengthen partnerships with K-12 and higher education.



Oklahoma Association for Career and Technology Education

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APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FY24

FY23 General Appropriation \$137,602,932

■ Meet the statutory requirement of funding the flex benefit allowance for the technology centers (Title 70. Schools §70-26-104) **\$1,400,000**

■ Agency Operations and Field Support **\$2,165,000**

- Remain competitive in the job market by investing in the recruitment and retention of exceptional agency staff.
- Invest in agency operations to provide additional professional development opportunities for continued growth in agency staff; address increasing inflationary costs for the provision of field support; and address facility maintenance.
- Video production highlighting the value of CareerTech training in a specific industry and the rewarding careers it can lead to. Increase brand awareness by investing in additional marketing opportunities, including paid media marketing.

■ Educational Attainment

■ Support the growth of CareerTech programs in PK-12 schools by funding approved but unfunded programs; leveling funding for all PK-12 CareerTech programs; and increasing the salary supplement provided to CareerTech PK-12 teachers. **\$10,886,865**

- Provide funding to 163.5 approved but unfunded CareerTech programs in PK-12 schools.
- Level funding to 1,475.5 CareerTech programs in PK-12 schools to adjust for inflationary costs.
- Increase the salary supplement provided to CareerTech PK-12 teachers.

■ Enrich the specialized career training provided to high school and adult learners at our technology centers **\$40,000,000**

- Enhance the ability of the technology centers to respond to industry needs with customized training and specialized workforce programs both on our campuses and at our customers' facilities.
- Expand offerings at our technology center campuses, creating opportunities for secondary and adult students in high-demand, high-wage careers such as health, manufacturing, aerospace, energy, construction and transportation. Address the need to compete with industry to attract and retain high quality subject matter experts as both full time and adjunct instructional staff.

■ Expand Skills Centers programs and dropout recovery programs to meet the increasing need for inmate training services and dropout recovery **\$1,250,000**

- Increase the number of programs such as masonry, HVAC, plumbing and heavy equipment offered in Skills Centers to further prepare offenders for success in the workplace and in society.
- Increase the number of sites that offer dropout recovery programs to provide high school students who have dropped out the opportunity to gain skills to enter the workforce.

Total FY24 Appropriations Increase Requested \$55,701,865

TOTAL FY24 Appropriations Request. \$193,304,797