

Key Career Technical Education Policy Issues

Career Technical Education (CTE) remains popular in the Capitol, around the state, and in the Oakland Unified School District (USD) because of the emphasis on preparing students for college and career. The Oakland community has shown its commitment to CTE programs through the passage of Measure N in 2014 to provide all Oakland high school students with real-world work and learning opportunities.

At the state level, Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature agreed to continue targeted funding for CTE in the 2018-19 State Budget by including \$300 million in ongoing funding for K-12 CTE in two components:

- \$150 million ongoing funding allocated through the existing Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) program administered by the California Department of Education (CDE)
- \$150 million ongoing funding to establish a new K-12 component in the Strong Workforce Program (SWP), administered by the Community College Chancellor's Office, to expand availability of "high quality, industry-valued CTE"

CTEIG has been a reliable source of dedicated fund for CTE programs in the Oakland USD and it is critically important for the District to continue to be eligible for and receive state CTE funding. In preparation for conversations at the state level going forward, the District should examine current CTE programs:

- Are current CTE match requirements sustainable or problematic?
- Does the District plan to maintain or expand existing CTE programs?
- What CTE programs may be needed but do not fit into the current state framework?

The following are key issues the Oakland Unified School District Board should consider related to CTE issues that are likely to be raised for discussion in the Legislature in 2019.

Concerns have been raised about implementation, how funding will be distributed around the state, and the timeline for fund disbursement of both programs. For example:

- CTEIG program funding was reduced by \$50 million—how will that reduction be implemented?
- How and when will the CDE evaluate CTEIG grantees and deem them successful?
- How and when will stakeholders know the details of the CTEIG allocation formula, specific funding amounts, and the purposes for which grant funds may be used?

As a brand new program, there are numerous questions regarding the implementation of the SWP:

- How will the SWP funding be distributed?
- How will the state measure whether a CTE program is “high quality”? What evaluation metrics will be used for the SWP?
- How will data reporting requirements be aligned between existing programs and the SWP?

Regional collaboration will be key to successfully implementing the SWP in Oakland. Existing and new connections with the Peralta Community College District should be a top priority for the Oakland USD to ensure the CTE efforts of Oakland USD are aligned with the regional priorities at local community colleges.

As California endeavors to implement dual CTE programs, the District should note implementation challenges that require resolution for future advocacy. These issues may be addressed through regulations or through the Legislature. Regardless, they are critical components to ensuring Oakland USD continues to be eligible for and receive funding to support its CTE programs.