

Starting Point - [ISBE Website](#)

Budget Request 10% Increase - \$5,930,000

Sample Written Request:

Increase Requested: \$5,930,000

Program Description: Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Illinois equips students across the state with the skills, certifications, and experiences necessary to succeed in high-demand fields such as healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction trades, education, and transportation. Illinois CTE programs are delivered through high schools, area career centers, and community college partnerships, serving over 278,000 students annually.

CTE ensures that students graduate ready for both college and career while directly addressing Illinois' workforce shortages. These programs offer industry-aligned curricula, dual credit opportunities, work-based learning experiences, and stackable credentials that lead directly to employment.

The requested \$5,930,000 increase will enable Illinois to:

Expand Student Access to CTE

- Provide more students with opportunities to enroll in high-demand CTE programs across all regions of the state.
- Reduce waitlists at area career centers and high schools by hiring additional instructors and supporting more program sections.

Modernize and Standardize Equipment Statewide

- Invest in modern training tools and simulators to ensure alignment with industry standards in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, electrical, and HVAC.
- Ensure students from rural and under-resourced districts have access to the same quality of equipment as those in larger or better-funded districts.

Support Equity and Workforce Development

- Increase transportation and student support services so underserved populations can fully participate in programs.
- Expand workplace readiness, counseling, and paid internship opportunities.
- Build stronger connections between schools, community colleges, and employers to create statewide apprenticeship pipelines.

Strengthen Illinois' Economy

- Expand the pipeline of skilled workers entering high-demand Illinois industries.
- Reduce employer shortages in trades, education, healthcare, and manufacturing.
- Support the state's long-term economic competitiveness by aligning secondary education with workforce development needs.

Baseline Data (Current State)

- Students Enrolled in CTE (FY 2024): 278,000 statewide.

Justification of Funding Request

The \$5,930,000 increase represents a targeted investment in Illinois' CTE system that directly supports the state's workforce development priorities. By strengthening program capacity, modernizing equipment, and expanding access, Illinois will ensure that thousands more students graduate high school with the skills, experiences, and credentials needed for career success.

This investment will not only benefit students and families but also provide a strong return for Illinois' economy by filling critical workforce gaps, supporting regional industry needs, and ensuring the state remains competitive in an evolving global marketplace.