



Monroe County School Boards Association

Position Paper: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Funding

While the 2025-26 state budget shows a renewed commitment to CTE, the current funding structure is outdated and fails to meet student demand or industry standards.

MCSBA requests: Our membership urges legislators to modernize the funding model and revise certification requirements in our schools' CTE programs in order to build a ready workforce for our communities.

- **An Outdated Funding Model:** The BOCES CTE aidable salary cap is far too low and not aligned with the actual cost of services. This, combined with an outdated reimbursement structure, prevents the system from expanding to meet student demand.
- **A Critical Teacher & Technology Gap:** Rigid certification rules prevent districts from hiring highly-qualified teaching professionals with real-world experience. At the same time, programs lack funding for the "modern equipment and technology" needed to meet current industry standards.

| ISSUES | SOLUTIONS |
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| <p>In the one school year (2021-2022), over 41,990 students developed college and career-ready skills through BOCES CTE Programs. As New York State works to modernize its workforce and address educational equity, robust and sustained funding for CTE must be a top priority.</p> <p>While the 2025-26 state budget reflects a renewed commitment, significant challenges remain in ensuring equitable distribution and program sustainability. The current funding model is the primary barrier to growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The BOCES CTE aidable salary cap is not aligned with the actual cost of providing services. ● Programs lack priority funding for the modern equipment, technology, and facilities required to meet current industry standards. ● Districts cannot secure highly-qualified teaching professionals due to inflexible certification rules that do not value real-world experience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Bring the BOCES CTE aidable salary cap into direct alignment with the actual cost of providing services. → Expand the system's capacity to meet student needs by modernizing the reimbursement structure for BOCES programs. → Phase in a new tier of BOCES and special services aid that reflects the current and future costs of programming. → Prioritize CTE funding for modern equipment and technology and ensure adequate funding for CTE facilities that meet industry standards. → Allow incentives and flexibility in certification, including the application of real-world experience, to secure highly-qualified teaching professionals. → Provide grants to districts that collaborate with local employers to offer internships and apprenticeships. |