



Expand Career Connected Learning

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of these funds is to support the expansion of career connected learning opportunities within the K–12 system as a critical partner in the Career Connect Washington (CCW) initiative. This statewide collaborative asks educators and employers to work together to build an apprenticeship and broad career-connected learning (CCL) system that emphasizes real-world experience aimed at helping students land jobs in STEM and other high-paying fields.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Funding supports dedicated staffing at OSPI; 2.0 program-level FTE, and .45 administrative and leadership support for the expansion of career connected learning efforts. OSPI staff primarily provide support to the nine Educational Service District's (ESD) Career Connected Learning Coordinators and districts' Career and Technical Education (CTE) staff in the development of CTE Graduation Pathways and CCL. Staff serve on the CCW cross-agency statewide leadership team and cross-agency data team to scale up and expand high quality CCL opportunities. The efforts include expansion of career exploration, career preparation, career launch, and paid worksite learning opportunities for K–12 students that incorporate opportunities to earn college credit and industry recognized credentials. All of OSPI's supports for the CCW initiative are developed in partnership with education, government, labor, and business and industry, and community-based partners as identified within the CCW framework.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Funding is provided for OSPI as a named member of the Career Connected Learning Cross-Agency Work Group, with responsibility to support the expansion of career connected learning opportunities within the K–12 system. Funding was used for internal capacity building to support the foundational expansion of the CCW system and appropriate supports in alignment with the school system partners including school districts, Educational Service Districts (ESDs), and CCW system partners.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 295
Number of Schools: 0
Number of Students: 0
Number of Educators: 0
Other: N/A

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 2.45

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding: State Appropriation: \$426,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other Fund Sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY22) \$426,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

| Fiscal Year | Amount Funded | Actual Expenditures |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022 | \$426,000 | \$244,216 |

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

| Fiscal Year | Number of Schools |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 2020 | 295 |
| 2021 | 295 |

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Planned and facilitated monthly virtual meetings instead of quarterly in-person convenings to stay connected with all nine ESDs CCL Coordinators to support CCL expansion. Assisted with review of Career Launch Endorsed program applications and sector intermediary grant applications as new opportunities to increase programs and system partners were provided throughout the year.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

The work accomplished through this funding benefitted districts, schools, students, and educators statewide. OSPI is actively engaged in the CCW cross-agency leadership team and data team, Career Launch Endorsement Review (CLER) committee, at the CCW Statewide Partner Convenings, meetings with funded regional networks and sector intermediaries, and multiple subcommittee groups with OSPI staff members involved, depending upon the topic. OSPI staff contribute to and inform discussions related to system accountability, student support, and data definition and collection metrics to support the CCW initiative.

OSPI staff's direct support of CCL Coordinators at each of the nine ESDs has led to the development of more CTE Graduation Pathways and increases in Career Explore, Prep and Launch opportunities across the state. In addition, the CCW Program Specialist's provision of direct technical assistance, collaboration, and support to teachers, school counselors, and administrators on the CCW initiative, implementation strategies, and resources available has also supported the expansion of CCL opportunities.

Another focus in the effort to build CCL opportunities includes the continued development of CTE Graduation Pathways. OSPI's CCW Program Specialist and CTE Program Supervisors work collaboratively with school districts to support increased and expanded high quality CTE Graduation Pathways, as these aligned and rigorous programs are the foundation of Career Launch Endorsed programs. While this funding does not specifically fund other OSPI staff tasked with the facilitation of statewide support to increase access to dual credit courses, industry recognized credentials, Core Plus programs and CTE course equivalency, are all named CCW supported initiatives; therefore, the CCW Program Specialist collaborated with these colleagues to expand access and participation in all of these related CCL opportunities. As the CCW system continues to mature, school-based partners need continued support with knowing technical aspects of the CCW initiative, program definitions, benefits to program types, and how to integrate CCL opportunities into existing school-based options. There remains a continuum of understanding, and additional support is needed related to Career Connect Washington.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Staff understanding of and capacity to expand CCL programs, as well as planned training and development opportunities for K-12 educators, continued to be limited during the 2021-22 school year due to ongoing effects of the pandemic. While online communication methods were utilized to maintain connections with and support of CCW-related partners, there are also still continuing impacts from COVID-19 to employers, communities, and educational partners that are critical to the expansion of these programs. Coupled with the schools operating as hybrid, remote

and in person configurations, and businesses not fully recovered, scaling Career Launch efforts—which require paid work-site experiences—remains difficult to keep as a priority in addition to the multitude of other factors schools and employers were facing.

10. **Future opportunities:**

There is considerable opportunity to expand K-12 CCL learning and CTE Graduation Pathways opportunities across the state as both educators and employers return to some semblance of normal following the pandemic. Additionally, with CCW partners including the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the CCW program directory will continue to grow and support increased Career Launch Endorsed program access for community college students as well. We also expect to see development of additional K-12 pre-apprenticeship programs that will tie into the growth of state registered apprenticeship that the Department of Labor and Industries will be developing connected to the passage of Senate Bill 5600 (2022). Continuing to work with the nine ESD CCL Coordinators will provide regional support to districts to expand K-12 CCL opportunities for students in the state and contribute to long term statewide credential attainment goals. Additionally, the expansion of high quality CTE graduation pathways will support further development of Career Launch Endorsed programs, postsecondary preparation, and credential and degree completion.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5693, Sec. 501(5)(a) \$852,000 of the workforce education investment account—state appropriation is provided solely for expanding career connected learning as provided in [RCW 28C.30.020](#).

12. **Other relevant information:**

This work is in response to E2SHB 2158, 2019.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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