



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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) system. This system asks Educators and employers to work together to build an apprenticeship and broad career-connected learning 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 .3 administrative support for the expansion of career connected learning efforts. OSPI staff serve on the career connected learning cross-agency work group to scale up and expand high quality career connected learning opportunities. The support of these efforts includes expansion of career exploration, career preparation, career launch, and work-integrated learning opportunities for K–12 students 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 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	0
Number of Schools:	0
Number of Students:	0
Number of Educators:	0
Other: <i>Name other...</i>	0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 2.3 FTE

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

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$425,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY21) \$425,000

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

- No
- Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$425,000	\$287,643
FY20	\$425,000	\$227,934

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

Not applicable

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

Planned meetings to support career connected learning expansion, review Career Launch applications, and/or provide leadership to the CCW system that was intended to be in-person was modified to virtual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

While funds were not used to directly fund districts, the work accomplished through this funding benefited multiple districts, schools, students, and educators statewide. OSPI is actively represented on the CCW cross-agency workgroup, Career Launch Endorsement Review (CLER) committee, at the CCW Convenings, meetings with funded regional networks and intermediaries, and multiple subcommittee groups with OSPI staff members involved, depending upon the topic. OSPI staff contribute and inform discussions related to system accountability, student support, and data definition and collection metrics to support the system. Through multiple staff member efforts, OSPI supported statewide CCW events such as CareerConnect@Home and State of Innovation challenge, as well as ensured the K-12 data collection and reporting systems evolved to align with CCW needs.

OSPI staff support the nine CTE/CCL Coordinators at each of the nine Educational Service Districts across the state. The work of the coordinators is managed through a cooperative services agreement (CSA) managed through the CTE office, developed

and co-led by an executive leadership team comprised of the OSPI CTE Executive Director and an ESD Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Providing direct technical assistance, collaboration, and support to teachers, counselors, and administrators on the CCW framework, implementation strategies, and resources available is a primary function of the CCW Project Specialist to assist in supporting the expansion of career connected learning opportunities.

Another focus in on CTE Graduation Pathways. OSPI CTE Graduation Pathways staff work with school districts to support increased and expanded high quality CTE pathways, as these aligned programs are the foundation of career launch programs. As dual credit is foundational to both CTE graduation pathways, and a named supported initiative of Career Connect Washington, this was a focus area of this staff member as well. While not charged to this funding, the expansion of Core Plus and CTE course equivalency are both named CCW supported initiatives, and progress to expand access and participation were successful outcomes of staff efforts.

As the CCW system continues to mature, school-based partners need support in understanding terminology, program definition, benefits to program types, and how to integrate 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:**

Significant impacts to the expansion of career connected learning programs, as well as planned training and development opportunities were impacted due to COVID-19. While online communication methods have been utilized to maintain connections, it must be recognized that there are significant and continuing impacts from COVID-19 to employers, communities, and educational partners that are critical to the expansion of these programs. Coupled with the schools going remote and businesses closing, scaling Career Launch efforts—which require paid work-site experiences—became difficult to keep as a priority in addition to the multitude of other factors schools and employers were facing.

10. **Future opportunities:**

There is opportunity to expand CCL learning and dual credit opportunities across the state Additional with CCW partners including the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). The CCW program directory will continue to grow and supporting students and families with access and use will be critical. Continuing to work with CTE/CCL Coordinators housed at Educational Service Districts will provide regional support to schools to expand career connected learning opportunities for students in the state, to contribute to long term credential attainment goals. Additionally, the expansion of high quality CTE graduation

pathways will support career launch endorsement, postsecondary readiness, and credential obtainment.

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

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (1) \$425,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the workforce education investment account and \$425,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 from the workforce education investment account provided solely for expanding career connected learning as defined in section 57 of this act.

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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