



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.



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Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

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

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$426,000	\$347,157
2022	\$426,000	\$244,216

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
23	295
22	295

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Planned and facilitated quarterly in-person convenings to stay connected with all nine ESDs CCL Coordinators to support CCL expansion. Assisted with review of applications for Career Launch Endorsed programming (monthly), Apprenticeships Building America grant funding, Regional Network Request for Proposals, and two rounds of Program Builder grant funding focused on Career Launch. Participating in weekly meetings with statewide CCW leadership with state partners to ensure awareness and provide support for opportunities to increase programs and system partners were provided throughout the year.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of 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



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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, CTE Graduation Pathway 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. 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 for a continually expanding Career Connect Washington statewide network.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Although the CCW network experienced continued growth statewide, OSPI identified inherent barriers for districts related to the creation and expansion of CCL.

- Districts, particularly those in rural/remote areas, struggle significantly with staff turnover (administrative leadership, teachers, counseling staff). This instability is further impacted by a shortage of qualified educators, and as such, impacts a school's ability to maintain consistent CTE Graduation Pathways and create new, or expand existing, CCL opportunities for students.
- Funding inequities for small districts contribute to limited staff capacity through understaffing, and a need for one person to support multiple roles and priorities. This further impacts the ability to offer multiple CTE pathways and programming. Only if staff capacity allows, districts may apply for state and federal grant opportunities to help augment funding to a slight degree.
- A low number of employers in a rural/remote region, reduces opportunity to liaison with employer partners and establish CCL opportunities. Inconsistent CTE programming options may reduce Career Launch programming options, which require high-quality paid work experience.



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- Transportation is also a challenge for students to engage in Skill Center programming, or access paid work experience, particularly for remote areas, within large geographic areas, where there may be reduced options for public transportation.

10. Future opportunities:

There is considerable opportunity to expand K–12 CCL learning and CTE Graduation Pathway opportunities across the state. Continuing to work with the nine ESD CCL Coordinators will provide regional support to districts to expand opportunities for students 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.

Additional funding to support an increase in staff capacity for regional stakeholder engagement, will increase the establishment of CCL programming and subsequently, the number of students training for family and sustaining-wage careers, which is particularly needed for those students furthest from opportunity.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

\$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 ESSB 5187, 2023.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

14. Program Contact Information:

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