



Boards of Cooperative Educational Services

BOCES

of New York State

www.boces.org

Enhance support and BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education Programs

The problem:

To directly address the college- and career-readiness needs of today's students, improve the rate of successful school completion, increase student engagement and address the nationwide skills gap, schools must expand opportunities for students to learn 21st century skills.

The State Board of Regents has acted to approve multiple pathways to high school graduation, including a new Career and Technical Education (CTE)-based pathway, and a CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Skills)-based pathway. Sadly, there are some road blocks in the way of equitable student access to BOCES CTE programs.

One of the biggest road blocks is state funding for BOCES CTE programs. The existing state aid formula for BOCES only provides aid for the first \$30,000 of a BOCES instructor's salary. This limit was established in 1992. It has not been adjusted since that time and is significantly out of pace with the actual salary costs to employ well-prepared CTE instructors. In fact, currently, the average salary of a CTE teacher in New York State is approximately \$65,000, which is more than twice the reimbursable amount. Because of this imbalance, the state's contribution to BOCES CTE programs continues to decrease shifting more of the costs to local school districts and lessening the ability of many districts to send their students to these programs.

This should be of major concern to NY State for many reasons. For many students, CTE programs are the reason they remain in school, as the applied learning approaches help them see the relevance of what they're doing in the classroom and how this connects to future employment opportunities. CTE programs reinforce students' desire to pursue particular college majors or career paths and allow them to earn industry certifications. In addition, business and industry in NY State require strong BOCES CTE programs to meet their workforce development needs both now and in the future. NY should be looking to increase access to these programs, not restrict it.

The solution:

New York should ensure equitable student access to the CTE pathway by providing 100 percent aidability of salaries for teachers of any CTE program, including P-TECH and STEM high schools. A one-year implementation of an increase in the aidability of CTE salaries to match the statewide average would require an investment of approximately \$38 million in new money.