OFM

350 - Superintendent of Public Instruction
Capital Project Request

2025-27 Biennium
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Version: C1 2025-27 Capital Budget

Report Number: CBS002
Date Run: 9/12/2024   4:53PM

Project Number: **40000148**
Project Title: **2025-27 Career Preparation and Launch Grants**

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2026
Project Class: Grant
Agency Priority: 7

Project Summary

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requests $6.0 million to support career preparation and launch grants. This request would offer competitive equipment grant funding to assist school districts in creating STEM based learning spaces and purchasing equipment for career and technical education (CTE) programs.

Project Description

The Superintendent requests $6.0 million in continued funding for the competitive career preparation and launch grants initiated in the 2017-19 Biennial Capital Budget. The Legislature appropriated $4.0 million in the 2023-25 Biennial Capital Budget for competitive grants. OSPI received over $9.3 million in project requests from school districts statewide demonstrating a significant need for this grant program. In response to this need, OSPI requests that funding for this program be increased to $6.0 million.

As directed by the Legislature in the 2019-21 Capital Budget, OSPI consulted with school districts and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to develop the grant criteria for the program. The proposed competitive grant program would continue to use these criteria to administer the program.

Identify the problem or opportunity addressed. Why is the request a priority? This narrative should identify unserved/underserved people or communities, operating budget savings, public safety improvements or other backup necessary to understand the need for the request. For preservation projects, it is helpful to include information about th current condition of the facility or system.

Washington employers are looking for highly skilled labor to fill their positions. The career preparation and launch grants program helps to address this opportunity by developing a highly skilled labor force to meet the said needs of the employers. This grant program also helps students to carve their way into rewarding post-secondary pathways.

What will the request produce or construct (i.e., predesign or design of a building, construction of additional space ,etc. When will the project start and be completed? Identify whether the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request. Please provide detailed cost backup.

This competitive grant program will provide funds to school districts to support the preparation of students for post-secondary career pathways. This will help build a strongly skilled labor market which will eventually lead to employers being able to tap into the niches kills of the future citizens.

The grant program awards will be made to numerous school districts, and the projects will have varied start and end dates.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified by your proposed project? What would be the result of not taking action?

Washington employers are struggling to find skilled workers to meet today's employment demands. Many skilled jobs remain unfilled due to an unskilled labor market. The career preparation and launch grant funds support the preparation of students to meet the needs of employers and prepare students to pursue post-secondary pathways.

Programs directed to support preparation of students to pursue a rigorous higher education or immediate employment have always been supported and funded by the Legislature since the 2017-19 biennial Capital Budget. Not acting on this request

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would result in lost momentum on building on the successful outcomes achieved from the previous grant programs. It would result in a lost opportunity for the K-12 students to get a head start at post-secondary employability.

What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen? Be prepared to provide detailed cost backup. If this project has an associated predesign, please summarize the alternatives the predesign considered.

The gist of the career preparation and launch grants has been embodied in the CTE Equipment Grant Program and STEM Classrooms and Labs grant program funded in previous biennia. As directed by the Legislature in the 2019-21 Capital Budget, OSPI consulted with school districts and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to develop the grant criteria for the program. Based on the same, it was deemed more effective to have one comprehensive, competitive grant program to support career preparation and launch program.

Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc.

K-12students statewide will have access to appropriate learning environments for technical and career learning. These students will have the opportunity to be better prepared for post-secondary pathways. Students entering their careers will be better qualified to start in higher-paying skilled positions. Local businesses will benefit from having a highly qualified workforce.

Does this project or program leverage Non-state funding? If yes, how much by source? If the other funding source requires cost share, also include the minimum state (or other) share of project cost allowable and the supporting citation or documentation.

Non-state funds will not be used to complete the project.

Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance. Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming, and other analyses as appropriate.

This project supports Superintendent Reykdal's K-12 Education Vision of his goal for Washington's public education system to prepare every student who walks through our school doors for post-secondary aspirations, careers, and life.

Does this decision package include funding for any Information Technology related costs including hardware, software (to include cloud-based services), contracts or staff? If the answer is yes, you will be prompted to attach a complete IT addendum. (See Chapter 10 of the operating budget instructions for additional requirements.)

No

If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail. See Chapter 14 (Puget Sound Recovery and Governor's Salmon Strategy) in the 2025-27 Operating Budget Instructions.

This project does not impact the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state? Which communities are impacted by this proposal? Include both demographic and geographic communities. How are disparities in communities impacted?
STEM and career preparation go hand in hand. The career preparation and launch grants help the school districts provide equipment and facilities which prepare their students for real life work environments. These types of equipment and facilities

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are almost always available to school districts that are in affluent communities. Hence, the request for this grant so that OSPI can step in and help the underprivileged school districts provide a similar experience for a more equitable learning environment in schools across the state.

How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.050, clean buildings performance standards in RCW19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve energy efficiency? Please elaborate. For buildings subject to the clean buildings performance standards, describe your compliance pathway for the building, and include information about energy audits, metering, and energy benchmarking

N.A.

Is this project eligible for Direct Pay? If the answer is yes, you must include this project to the list of direct pay projects and information for submittal (see Chapter 1.7 of the capital budget instructions for additional instructions).

N.A.

Location
  City: Olympia   **County:** Statewide   **Legislative District:** 098

Project Type
  Grants

Grant Recipient Organization: Local School Districts
RCW that establishes grant: 28A.525
Application process used
  OPSI will continue to use the competitive grant program criteria established in collaboration with WA STEM and other stakeholders.

Growth Management impacts
  Local school districts are responsible for determining whether and how they need to participate in the planning process with the city or county planning authority.

Funding

Acct Code	Account Title	Estimated Total	Expenditures Prior Biennium	Current Biennium	2025-27 Fiscal Period Reapprops	New Approps
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	30,000,000				6,000,000
	Total	**30,000,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6,000,000**

Acct Code	Account Title	Future Fiscal Periods 2027-29	2029-31	2031-33	2033-35
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
	Total	**6,000,000**	**6,000,000**	**6,000,000**	**6,000,000**

Operating Impacts

Total one time start up and ongoing operating costs

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Operating Impacts

Narrative

No Operating Budget Impact.

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Parameter	Entered As	Interpreted As
Biennium	2025-27	2025-27
Agency	350	350
Version	C1-A	C1-A
Project Classification	*	All Project Classifications
Capital Project Number	40000148	40000148
Sort Order	Project Priority	Priority
Include Page Numbers	Y	Yes
For Word or Excel	N	N
User Group	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
User Id	*	All User Ids