

E2SSB 5582 Grant Program

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$2,094,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$2,076,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the competitive grant program created in Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5582 (nurse supply).

Purpose

The legislature provided funding for the administration of a competitive grant program to support high school career and technical education programs in starting or expanding offerings in health science programs. The grant program was developed in consultation with the Workforce Education and Training Coordinating Board (WTB) and the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC).

Description of Services Provided

The grant application and evaluation were built by OSPI in collaboration with named partners.

Grant funds may be used to purchase or improve curriculum, add additional staff, upgrade technology and equipment to meet industry standards, or other purposes to initiate a new health science program or improve the rigor and quality of an existing health science program.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Programs receiving funds through this grant program must meet the minimum criteria for preparatory secondary career and technical education programs under RCW 28A.700.030.

- Programs designed or implemented in partnership with local and regional employers or unions.
- Programs that include partnerships between employers and exclusive bargaining representatives as sponsors or cosponsors.
- Programs with employer placement agreements for student clinicals.
- Programs meeting apprenticeship preparation program requirements, including recognition by the Washington State Apprenticeship & Training Council (WSATC), and aligned with apprenticeship preparation programs in a rural designated area.
- Programs in a school that serves 300 or less students, grades 9–12.
- Programs that have a plan for recruitment and retention of underrepresented populations in the health science pathway.
- School districts and State-Tribal Education Compacts (STECs) participating in developing, adopting, and utilizing state course equivalencies.
- New programs proposed for expanding access.



Beneficiaries in the 2023–24 School Year

Number of School Districts	25
Number of Schools	73
Number of Students	6,249
Number of Educators	92
Other	

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$2,094,000	\$1,982,072

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	6,249 Students

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This is the first year of the administration of this grant funding.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

The grant funds were utilized across multiple school districts to significantly enhance and expand their health science programs. Districts used the funds to purchase essential equipment such as Anatomage tables, lab equipment, and simulation mannequins. These resources allowed for the creation of state-of-the-art learning environments that closely mimic real-world healthcare settings. Schools invested in comprehensive curriculum materials, including Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses and Paxton/Patterson Career Ready Labs, to provide students with robust, hands-on learning experiences in various healthcare fields.

In addition to equipment and curriculum, funds were allocated to support teacher professional development, allowing instructors to gain necessary certifications and attend relevant conferences. Several districts used the grant to introduce new courses or expand existing ones, such as sports medicine, biomedical sciences, and nursing assistant programs. The funding also facilitated partnerships with local healthcare providers, enabling schools to offer internships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities. These enhancements collectively aim to better prepare students for careers in the growing healthcare sector, with many programs now offering industry-recognized certifications upon completion.

Findings for the ongoing support and improvement of this program:

- Grant applicants should establish clear timelines and processes for equipment procurement and installation, particularly for specialized items like simulation labs.
- Applicants benefit from the development of strong partnerships with local healthcare providers early in the program planning stages to streamline internship and work-based learning opportunities.
- Provide more comprehensive professional development and support for new or conditionally certified teachers to help them quickly adapt to curriculum development and instruction.
- Create flexible scheduling options to accommodate both classroom instruction and clinical experiences.
- Implement targeted outreach and support programs to increase enrollment and retention of underrepresented students.
- Secure sustainable funding sources to ensure consistent program resources and growth. By addressing these areas proactively, programs could reduce delays and improve overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

While OSPI allocated the full proviso amount, the grantees were unable to fully spend down their grant amounts. Common issues included budget constraints and securing sustainable funding for expensive equipment and resources. Many districts struggled with low enrollment numbers, which sometimes led to staffing cuts. Logistical challenges were prevalent, such as finding adequate space for labs, coordinating clinical experiences with academic schedules, and addressing transportation issues for students participating in apprenticeships preparation programs or off-site learning. Some programs faced difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified instructors, particularly those with industry experience. Curriculum development and alignment with rapidly evolving industry standards posed ongoing challenges. Additionally, engaging and supporting underrepresented students, addressing varying levels of student preparedness (especially in math), and managing student attendance and engagement were significant hurdles. In rural areas, the distance to healthcare facilities and concerns about patient confidentiality in small community clinics created barriers to providing hands-on experiences.

Future Opportunities

Opportunities for health science programs to grow and better meet their intended purposes:

- Expanding partnerships: Many districts have established strong relationships with local healthcare providers, colleges, and industry professionals. There's potential to further develop these partnerships to include more internship opportunities, apprenticeships preparation, and clinical rotations for students. Additionally, engaging with a wider range of healthcare specialties could provide students with broader exposure to various career paths.

- Curriculum development and alignment: Collaborating with post-secondary institutions to create more dual-credit opportunities and seamless pathways for students to continue their education could enhance the programs' effectiveness. There's also potential to work more closely with industry partners to ensure curricula remains current and aligned with rapidly evolving healthcare practices and technologies.
- Funding opportunities: To address the ongoing challenge of securing sustainable funding, programs could explore additional grant opportunities, seek increased support from industry partners for equipment and resources, and advocate for consistent state funding. There may also be opportunities to partner with healthcare providers to co-fund certain aspects of the programs, such as simulation labs or specialized equipment.
- Expanding student reach: Many programs noted success in engaging underrepresented students. There's potential to build on this by developing targeted outreach programs, providing additional support services, and creating more accessible entry points into health science pathways. Additionally, expanding programs to more schools within districts could increase overall student participation and impact.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

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