

Career & Technical Education

Budget Language

\$3,152,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$3,152,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for secondary career and technical education grants pursuant to chapter 170, Laws of 2008, including parts of programs receiving grants that serve students in grades four through six. If equally matched by private donations, \$1,475,000 of the 2024 appropriation and \$1,475,000 of the 2025 appropriation shall be used to support FIRST robotics programs in grades four through twelve. Of the amounts provided in this subsection (2)(b), \$800,000 of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation and \$800,000 of the fiscal year 2025 appropriation are provided solely for the purpose of statewide supervision activities for career and technical education student leadership organizations.

Proviso Purpose

Funding from the general fund state appropriation supports secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) grants under chapter 170, Laws of 2008, to advance high-demand programs identified in RCW 28A.700.020. The funds enhance CTE opportunities in middle schools, high schools, and skill centers, provide statewide support for Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), and expand FIRST Washington programs for grades 4–12. This investment promotes hands-on STEM learning, strengthens student leadership, and broadens access to high-quality, career-connected education across Washington state.

Services Provided

Proviso funds were distributed via grant allocation for the following:

- Expansion of high-demand CTE programs serving students in grades 7–12 at middle schools, high schools, and skill centers.
- Support and expansion of high-cost programs that require specialized technology and equipment for industry certification, as well as regional or statewide high-demand occupational programs.
- Funding and coordination for state-recognized CTSOs to provide required extended learning opportunities for students enrolled in CTE programs.
- Implementation and expansion of FIRST Washington programs to engage students in hands-on STEM learning and career-connected experiences.
- Investment in professional learning opportunities through the Washington Applied Math Council (WAMC) to deliver educator workshops and training focused on applied mathematics instruction within CTE contexts.



Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

Fund allocations were prioritized for programs identified as high-cost due to the technology and equipment necessary to maintain industry certification, as well as for programs that prepare students for high-demand occupations. Grant funds were also used to provide professional development opportunities that expand dual credit and advanced placement coursework, enhance educator training for high-demand programs, and increase statewide access to industry certifications. Grant funds for high-demand programs were eligible to be used for the following purposes:

- Purchase of curriculum
- Professional development
- Creation of pre-apprenticeship programs
- Articulation development with postsecondary institutions
- Technology and equipment upgrades to meet industry standards
- Development or enhancement of high-demand programs through other approved purposes
- Expansion of access to dual credit opportunities

Funds were provided to school districts to implement and expand FIRST Washington programs through a competitive grant process.

FIRST Washington grant funds may be used for:

- Teacher stipends
- Teacher professional development
- Registration fees
- Supplies and materials
- Equipment and technology
- Other costs associated with direct student participation in FIRST Washington programs

The eight state-recognized CTSOs were eligible for funds to provide the required extended learning component of the CTE model, deliver statewide resources for use by local affiliated programs, and ensure statewide supervision and coordination of student leadership activities offered through these organizations.

Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	46
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	9

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$3,152,000	\$3,118,894
2024	\$3,152,000	\$3,103,660
2023	\$2,752,000	\$3,103,660
2022	\$2,752,000	\$3,103,660
2021	\$2,052,000	\$1,595,016

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools/Other
2025	294/46/9
2024	294/107/9
2023	160/9
2022	152/9
2021	181/9

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

The proviso was amended to expand eligibility to programs serving students in grades 4–6 to include FIRST Lego League grantees and to provide additional funding for FIRST Washington programs. The allocation for the eight CTSOs increased from \$100,000 to \$800,000 in the 2021 state budget to support statewide coordination and student leadership activities

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025, OSPI is no longer implementing this program.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

First Washington supported 294 schools from 88 school districts. High demand grant funding supported 46 school districts. The CTSOs and the WAMC provide services and support to multiple schools, school districts, and State-Tribal Education Compacts (STEC).

High demand grant funding was allocated to establish new or enhance existing CTE programs of study within CTE Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) programs, as well as at middle schools, high schools, and skills centers. Funded programs focused on high-need industry sectors, including Construction Trades, Engineering, Manufacturing and Mechanization, Health Care Careers, and Cybersecurity. Requests for these grants continue to exceed available funding allocations, demonstrating sustained demand and interest in expanding high-demand CTE

pathways. Additionally, funding was provided to the Washington Applied Math Council to coordinate, promote, and advance integrated programs in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering across the state through in-service training and professional development for educators in preparation for implementing the applied math curriculum.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

N/A

Future Opportunities

As industry sectors continue to advance technology and equipment, districts and STECs will need support to expand and adapt CTE offerings to reflect current industry standards. OSPI is legislatively mandated to limit CTE offerings to high demand areas, and allocating funding will be necessary to adequately prepare students for these high demand occupations. This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Future opportunities will depend on future legislative direction and resource dedicated to this work.

Other Relevant Information

The FIRST Robotics program funding is split into three separate grant awards that reflect the three options within age range and program requirements:

- FIRST Robotics Competition: Grades 9–12, Ages 14–18
- FIRST Tech Challenge: Grade 7–12, Ages 12–18
- FIRST LEGO League: Grades 4–8, Ages 9–14

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

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