



Funding the Columbia Basic Technical Skills Center – Phase II

2027-29 Biennial Capital Budget Decision Package

Agency: 3500 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Budget period: 2027-29 Biennial Budget

Budget level: PL

PROJECT SUMMARY

Moses Lake School District requests \$35,194,000 for Phase II Project of Columbia Basin Technical Skills Center (CB Tech) project to provide new classrooms/labs to accommodate new high-demand programs as well as expansion of existing programs for which enrollment is currently restrained due to space limitations. CB Tech provides programs that would normally not be offered in a comprehensive high school due to high operative and equipment costs or not enough student enrollment in a single high school setting. Since opening in May 2014, CB Tech has been extremely popular with students, families and regional businesses, and these constituencies have expressed the need for expanded program offerings.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Phase I of CB Tech was constructed in 2013/2014 and occupied in May 2014. In its original conception, CB Tech was planned as a 63,000 square feet project. In 2007, the project's scope was reduced to 46,111 square feet and fewer program offerings due to the state funding shortfall. Phase II intends to fulfill the original vision, but it is updated to reflect current and anticipated future needs, including growth within existing programs and addition of new programs.

The proposed 33,562 gross square-foot Phase II expansion and future 18,025 gross square-foot Phase III expansion are needed to meet an enhanced goal of providing a skilled employment pool to address regional workforce needs via local recruitment, as well as to address continued regional enrollment growth trends. Moses Lake School District anticipates requesting Phase III state funding upon completion of Phase II expansion as their work can be done independently. There is demand for additional programs; thus, the expansions will serve students that currently cannot be served due to insufficient space and limited program offerings.

CB Tech is located adjacent to Moses Lake High School and Vanguard Academy (option high school). CB Tech helps students toward their career goals by providing focused training through a combination of learning theory and hands-on lab experience, as well as opportunity for

certification. The proposed expansion is needed to meet an enhanced goal of providing a skilled employment pool to address regional workforce needs via local recruitment, as well as to address renewed regional high school enrollment growth trends.

The proposed CB Tech Phase II expansion aims to expand Automotive Technology, Criminal Justice, Firefighting, and Flight Technology programs to provide additional high-demand skill training not currently available in the CB Tech region. Phase II expansion also includes adding Digital Arts & Film and Electrical & HVAC Technology as new programs to the facility.

Existing CB Tech onsite facilities are operating essentially at practical capacity even when the Automotive Technology program that is extremely popular is currently housed at an isolated offsite facility. CB Tech has creatively scheduled use of existing inadequate space to squeeze in growing enrollment and program offerings. The outfitting of all program spaces is specialized for their current programs which are each projected to continue to grow in enrollment, meaning that these spaces will not be available for other new programs that are in demand. Thus, there is not and will not be sufficient existing space to support the proposed new programs or expanded existing programs without expansion of the building and site amenities.

Additionally, the project will plan for minor improvements within the existing facility to be done in conjunction with the new construction:

1. Add acoustic panels in the existing Culinary, Welding & Manufacturing, Construction Trades, Pre-Engineering, and Pre-Nursing labs;
2. Fix existing shop and toilet room drains that were installed too high;
3. Partially remodel administrative office area to have presence on Commons (security);
4. Create security vestibule with door to reception and upgrade access control features at the building's main entry (security);
5. Convert existing conference room which is too small to accommodate all-staff meetings to be two offices;
6. Add emergency communications button at Pre-Nursing Lab; and
7. Add satellite serving station for the school lunch program in the Commons, including cabinetry, serving counter, hot cart, and refrigerator.

Planning will explore ways to maximize flexibility/adaptability and maximize value by minimizing future repurposing costs. For example, educational areas will be designed for easy reconfiguration of mechanical/ electrical amenities and ability to sub-divide space for future program needs. Planning will look for ways to maximize efficiency of proposed square footage, use economical but durable finishes, and simplify the building design while not compromising functionality and utility.

What will the request produce or construct? Who or what will be impacted by the budget request and how will they be impacted?

This CB Tech Phase II request is for the Pre-Construction and Construction phases in the 2027-29 biennium. Funding both phases in a single biennium is necessary to build out the much-needed space as soon as possible since more than 200 students are now being turned away annually due to space limitations.

The CB Tech Phase II Pre-Construction phase will generate Pre-Design/Programming and Schematic Design documentation. Pre-Design/Programming will occur July through September 2027. Schematic Design will occur October through December 2027.

The CB Tech Phase II Construction phase will complete design (Design Development and Construction Documents), bid, and construct a proposed 33,562 square-foot addition (plus 9,400 square feet of covered outdoor work yard) to the existing skills center. Design Development will occur January through March 2028. Construction Documents will occur April through July 2028. Permit Review/Bidding will occur August through September 2028. Construction will occur October 2028 through May 2030 for June 2030 occupancy.

While demand may warrant including inclusion of additional programs and square footage of new construction in Phase II, CB Tech instead proposes to defer this to a Phase III project to add 18,025 more square feet to continue expansion for additional anticipated interest and enrollment growth. The Phase III Pre-Construction phase is anticipated for the 2029-31 biennium and Phase III Construction phase is anticipated for the 2031-33 biennium with an estimated cost of \$20,275,000. Expediting both phases as proposed will also result in at least two years of construction cost escalation savings. However, this budget request is specifically for Phase II expansion work in the 2027-29 biennium.

Identify the problem or opportunity addressed by this request. Why is the request a priority? What would be the result of not acting?

There is student interest in programs that CB Tech cannot currently provide due to space constraints. This includes both existing programs that need dedicated space for increased enrollment demand, as well as space for new programs not currently offered. These programs would provide students with skills and experience that they cannot otherwise obtain within the ten school districts served, and that would enable them to fill local and regional workforce needs, thereby improving the economic health of the regional community.

Moving the offsite Automotive and Flight Technology programs onsite will reduce operational costs due to consolidation of the programs requiring less time and resources to travel between multiple facilities. This reduced traffic will result in fewer miles being driven and a modest improvement to public safety.

For new funding requests for programs or projects that have received previous appropriations (either a phase of construction or previous grant rounds), how much has been spent or put under contract?

N/A

Does this project or program leverage non-state funding? If yes, how much by source?

The CB Tech Phase II project's primary funding source is state funds. Local funds contribution is anticipated as follows:

1. Carryover value of unused portion of local match from Phase I contribution (\$415,000);
2. Funds contributed by the cooperative school districts via Council approval to the Maintenance Fund (\$20,000 current balance plus future assessments);
3. School district funds spent for capital planning, design, construction, and capital project management (\$220,000 estimated);
4. Value of Moses Lake School District owned Automotive Technology equipment to be relocated to CB Tech (\$150,000); and
5. Identified value of in-kind contributions (\$50,000 estimated). Potential matching funds from other sources will be investigated during the Pre-Construction phase.

For major construction projects, describe the viable alternative solutions you considered. Why was this alternative chosen?

The CB Tech Phase II project has been proposed in multiple previous biennia. While some programs have been consistently proposed in each updated request, incremental adjustments have been made each time to reflect continually evolving external influences, such as new technologies and new regional job opportunities. This evolution has highlighted the need for the design to be flexible to ensure the space can be easily and economically modified to accommodate changing opportunities and needs after the initial construction.

For major construction projects, what project delivery method has been or will be selected and why?

The project will use the design-bid-build delivery method.

Location

- 900 East Yonezawa Blvd.
- 98837
- Grant County
- Moses Lake
- Legislative District 13

Grant recipient organization

Local School Districts.

RCW that establishes grant

N/A

Application process used

Beginning with the 2027-29 budget process cycle, State, and locally funded planning projects each have their own designated pathways. OSPI has established a new Skills Center Construction Advisory Committee (SCCAC) to review and prioritize skills center project funding requests for approval of the Skills Center Directors. The SCCAC consists of five members: one from the OSPI School Facilities Program, one from the OSPI CTE Program, OSPI's OFM Capital Budget Analyst (non-voting member), and two Skills Center Directors appointed by the President of the Skills Center Association.

The skills center submitted their proposed capital projects to the OSPI in June 2026 for prioritization scoring purposes. The SCCAC reviewed, approved, and prioritized skills center projects to ensure adequate project sizing, space utilization, and efficient use of space. High demand program offerings and reasonableness of cost projects were also prioritized.

The scoring and review process will continue to be refined in future capital budget cycles by skills center directors and OSPI staff to more accurately identify those projects most in need of capital funds and provide a more comparative approach.

Describe the Growth Management Impacts

The Phase II CB Tech project is an expansion of the existing facility on the same site. The site is located within the City of Moses Lake Urban Growth Area and subject to the City and Grant County GMA as well as City land use regulations. The site is currently served by adequate City water and sewer, as well as refuse services and private communications services. Public transportation serves the site. Moses Lake School District's bus facility (an inter-district cooperative) is immediately adjacent, and no additional bus routes will be required. The increased CB Tech student enrollment caused by the expansion will produce a modest increase in car trips, the effects of which will be investigated during the Pre-Construction phase (relocation of offsite programs to be on site will modestly offset a portion of the increased care trips). Offsite traffic improvements are not expected to be required. Fire and police services are not anticipated to be impacted substantially. MLSD continually works with local agencies to assess their impacts.

Funding Requested

- 2027-29 \$35,194,000
- 2029-31 \$0
- 2031-33 \$0

- 2033-35 \$0
- 2035-37 \$0

STRATEGIC AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Provide context on how this request fits into the agency's work. Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic plan or would improve agency performance.

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.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state? Which communities are impacted by this proposal? What are the measurable outcomes that would result from the project?

CB Tech serves high school enrollment of ten regional school districts (Coulee-Hartline, Ephrata, Othello, Quincy, Royal, Soap Lake, Wahluke, Warden, and Wilson Creek, with Moses Lake School District (MLSD) as the host district). The districts served are in small communities with limited resources. These districts are unable to provide the specialized education skills development offered by CB Tech programs. As such, CB Tech enables students in these communities to receive educational opportunities otherwise only available to students in larger communities in other parts of the state.

OTHER SUPPORTING MATERIALS

If this project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda and/or the Governor's Salmon Strategy, please follow the instructions in Chapter 14 of the operating budget instructions and Chapter 3 of the capital budget instructions.

This project does not impact the Puget Sound Action Agenda or the Governor's Salmon Strategy.

Is there additional information you would like decision makers to know when evaluating this request?

The Moses Lake region is uniquely located in central Washington along the I-90 corridor and with inexpensive electricity. This attracts significant high-tech industry to the area. These businesses require a local skilled labor force. CB Tech proposes to provide training that will enable regional students to fill these high-quality employment opportunities. This labor resource is anticipated to attract additional industry to locate and/or expand in the Moses Lake region.