

## K-12 Strong Workforce Program (May Revise)

The Governor's Budget proposed \$200 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to establish a K-12 component within the Strong Workforce Program to encourage local educational agencies to offer Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that are aligned with needed industry skills and regional workforce development efforts. This proposal complements the 2.6-percent base grant adjustment that is included in the Local Control Funding Formula for grades 9-12 to account for the higher cost of providing CTE programs at the high school level.

The May Revision continues to utilize the Strong Workforce Program as proposed in January, but amends the proposal to clarify important elements of this K-12 program, including:

- Clarifying that grant decisions for the K-12 component will be made exclusively by the K-12 Selection Committee.
- Clarifying the requirements that apply to the new K-12 component of the Strong Workforce Program.
- Building in a role for the Technical Assistance Providers established under the California Career Pathways Trust Program, and further clarifying roles and responsibilities of the Workforce Pathway Coordinators.
- Providing additional resources to consortia for administering the regional grant process, including resources to support the K-12 Selection Committee duties.

## Career Technical Education & Workforce Development (January)

The LCFF was designed to reflect the higher costs of operating career technical education (CTE) programs in high schools. The 2013 and 2014 Budget Acts both provided \$250 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding to support the Career Pathways Trust Program, which provided one-time competitive grants to create innovative programs and partnerships linking rigorous academic standards to career pathways in high-need and high-growth sectors of the economy.

This program was followed by the CTE Incentive Grant Program, which provided \$900 million over a three-year period to encourage the creation and expansion of high-quality CTE programs during local educational agencies' implementation of the LCFF. To date, almost 400 local educational agencies have received funding from this program.

The 2016 Budget Act allocated \$200 million Proposition 98 funding annually to create the Strong Workforce Program, which is designed to expand the availability of regionally aligned CTE and workforce development programs/courses. In 2017-18, this amount was increased to \$248 million. The program requires local stakeholders to collaborate and align regional workforce training needs with community college CTE programs to increase the earning potential and employability of students and meet the skills needed by employers.

The Budget proposes building on this proven college program with the inclusion of K-12 students. Specifically, the Budget proposes an ongoing increase of \$200 million Proposition 98 General Fund to establish a K-12 specific component of the Strong Workforce Program to encourage the establishment and support of K-12 CTE programs that are aligned with needed industry skills, and proposes an ongoing increase of \$12 million Proposition 98 General Fund to fund local industry experts who will provide technical support to local educational agencies operating, or proposing to operate, CTE programs. This proposal creates a predictable, targeted, and sustained funding stream to support an industry and student-focused infrastructure for workforce development collaboration at the state, regional and local levels.