

Madame Chair, Members of the Committee
For the Record, My Name is Spencer Sartorius and I am an Assistant Superintendent in the Office of Public Instruction.

I am speaking to:
DP - 51: Additional Funding - Career and Technical Education on Page E-23

Both Executive budgets request a \$285,000 per year increase in State support for Career and Technical Education, while the Superintendent requests a \$585,000 per year increase. This funding will help support Career and Technical Education, or what many refer to as Vocational Education programs in Montana's public schools to help them meet the changing needs of today's technical economy. 100 percent of this funding will go directly to the schools. New technologies and constantly emerging career opportunities require continual program improvement... including the purchase of new equipment and on-going professional development.

The Career and Technical Education allocation is currently distributed among 168 schools, which include 496 different programs. Nearly 42,000 CTE students are enrolled in the following seven program areas:

- 1. Agriculture**
- 2. Business**
- 3. Marketing**
- 4. Trade and Industrial**
- 5. Family and Consumer Sciences**
- 6. Health Occupations and,**
- 7. Technology Education**

Each of these seven program areas include a co-curricular student organization:

- FFA,**
- Business Professionals of America or BPA,**
- DECA,**
- SkillsUSA**
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America or FCCLA,**
- Health Occupations Students of America or HOSA, and**
- Technology Student Association or TSA.**

These seven student organizations involve almost 6,000 students.

This additional funding would all be distributed to schools in the form of a non-competitive grant for approved CTE programs.

There is a direct relationship between a strong economy and a skilled workforce. By supporting local CTE programs, we are developing our workforce and developing the ability for our students to be competitive with their counterparts across the country. These programs not only teach career skills, but provide students with leadership opportunities, after school and summer opportunities and life skills development.

Our students must learn and be trained in using the latest technology in order to be competitive... thus the requested increase in funding. The Superintendent will be asking you to amend this proposal to reflect the Superintendent's request.