

# 2021 Legislative Agenda



The Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education, OkACTE, advocates for policy and legislation that best serves and protects the integrity of the Oklahoma Career and Technology system. OkACTE's Legislative Agenda lists objectives for legislative action at the state level on issues that affect the Oklahoma CareerTech System. This document is typically issued each January, prior to Legislative Session, and is focus of the Executive Director while at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

## FUNDING

- Fully fund the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education's 2022 budget request.
- Fully fund the Health Benefit Allowance requirements for all educational entities.
- Ensure the continued funding of the State Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.
- Support legislation that provides all taxing jurisdictions an equal voice in the development and approval of economic development incentives such as Tax Increment Financing districts.
- Increase funding for K-12 CareerTech programs.
- Expand the teacher pay scale to 40 years.
- Support the creation of a statewide aerospace training facility and fund existing aviation programs.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Eliminate Oklahoma's dual diploma system and replace it with graduation requirements that best prepare students for their careers of choice as identified through the Career Academic Plan (ICAP) process.
- Support eligible courses within comprehensive programs to also count for graduation requirements.
- Support changes in high school graduation requirements to allow CTE programs of study which lead to recognized credentials, to take the place of one math and/or one science credit for any student.

## OPEN MEETINGS

- Support changes to the Open Meetings Act that allow districts greater use of distance/virtual tools for public meetings.

## WORKFORCE TRAINING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support legislation to lift the maximum of two technology centers approved annually by CLEET for training academies.
- Support the creation of a statewide aerospace training facility and fund existing aviation programs.
- Support legislation allowing Triple I background checks.

## WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Support legislation that reduces employer risk when participating in work-based learning.
- Support expansion of work-based learning opportunities that ensure the availability of a high skilled workforce for Oklahoma employers.

## RETIREMENT

- Oppose consolidation of retirement boards.
- Ensure that there are no employment minimums for a non-classified optional employee to join TRS.
- Support a Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees.
- Increase the cap on retired educator earnings.

## LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

OkACTE actively works to promote awareness of the following items for OkACTE membership.

- ◆ Support continued professional development to fully implement the Individualized Career Academic Plans (ICAP) requirement for all students.
- ◆ Oppose consolidation of retirement boards.
- ◆ Maintain Teachers Retirement System as a defined benefit plan.

## Optimizing Workforce Development for Oklahoma

**FY21 General Appropriation** .....\$133,470,385

Being mindful of the current economic situation, it is critical to keep the workforce development steady in these challenging times. To do our part as CareerTech, our request is to maintain our FY21 budget as of July 1, 2020.

**FY22 General Appropriation Request**.....\$133,470,385

### Additional investment opportunities needed:

- Support growth of current unfunded programs in PK-12 schools, such as agricultural education, family and consumer sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math; business, marketing and information technology .....\$1,200,000
- Expand Skills Centers and dropout recovery to meet the needs of individuals working to reach their career goals while turning the corner in their lives.....\$750,000
- Meet the statutory requirement of funding flex benefit allowance for technology centers..... \$805,541
- Enrich industry sectors with customized training and specialized workforce educational programs in all delivery arms meeting the needs of these industries: aerospace, agriculture, construction, energy, health, information technology, manufacturing and transportation.....\$6,200,000

