

Career and Technical Education (CTE)/(Vocational) and Skill Center Education Hold Harmless Issue:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Skill Center education programs play an essential role in creating career ready graduates in Washington. These programs enrolled a combined 69,460 full-time equivalent students during the 2015-2016 school year.

State law requires that the definition of a full-time equivalent (FTE) student used to calculate allocations from the state to school districts align with the statutorily required minimum annual instructional hours for the state’s basic education program. Legislation passed in 2014 (2776) increased the minimum instructional hours creating the need for OSPI to redefine the average annual FTE consistent with the revised law. Changing this definition reduces funding to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Skill Center programs. This proposal provides a solution intended to protect and hold harmless the CTE and Skill Center programs from related funding losses, which we believe to have been unintended with passage of 2776.

This proposal is intended to be as cost neutral as possible providing CTE and Skill Center programs with the same level of funding provided before the OSPI FTE calculation change as required in statute.

The hold harmless proposal can be accomplished through the following two steps:

Step 1 Other ESA Staff Ratio

Provide an allocation for nurses, social workers, psychologists, and guidance counselors at a rate of 5.3 staff per 1,000 student FTE for both CTE/vocational and skill center allocations. This is the same rate at which these staff members are allocated within the general education program.

Step 2 Lower CTE/Vocational and Skill Center Class Sizes

Provide an allocation for teachers based on an assumed class size of 22.76 for CTE/vocational programs and 19.63 for skill center programs.

The combined impact of this proposal for the 2017-2018 school year is shown by program type in the chart below:

	SY 2017-2018	High School CTE/Voc.	Middle School CTE/Voc.	Skill Center	Total
A	Estimated Impact – Current Law	(\$38,350,000)	(\$5,662,000)	(\$4,464,000)	(\$48,476,00)
B	ESA Staff Allocation	\$9,125,000	\$1,348,000	\$816,000	\$11,289,000
C	Class Size Reduction	\$29,287,000	\$4,326,000	\$3,657,000	\$37,270,000
D	Proposed State Impact Cost (A+B+C)	\$62,000	\$12,000	\$9,000	\$83,000

The total cost of this request is \$190,000 for the 2017-2019 biennium and \$270,000 for the 2019-2021 biennium (on a state fiscal year basis). All but \$83,000 is currently funded in the budget.