

# ECONOMIC RECOVERY

## Expanding the Workforce

### Supporting Career Technical Education



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- **WHAT:** The Administration is proposing a suite of initiatives to support enrollment, outcomes, infrastructure, and funding to elevate career technical education (CTE) centers and workforce development programming in our PK – 12 education system.
  - **WHY:** Vermont is facing a critical shortage statewide of workers in all sectors. In addition to attracting more Vermont residents, we must ensure that our young people know there are good paying jobs and valuable employment opportunities here at home that do not require a four-year degree, which they can prepare for at our CTE centers. Getting more young people interested and trained in health care and the trades is especially important to stabilizing our health care system and being able to build the infrastructure that will help Vermont recover stronger. We are going to need more skilled labor than we currently have to build and weatherize housing, lay fiber for broadband, complete roads and bridges, install water and sewer systems, and more, in the time period that we are required to spend federal infrastructure money.
  - **WHO:** Elevating our CTE centers and workforce development system helps students, jobseekers, and workers access and succeed in employer-informed career pathways that lead to high-paying jobs in Vermont’s critical industry sectors statewide.
  - **HOW:** The Administration is proposing a suite of initiatives to support enrollment and student outcomes, infrastructure, and addressing the funding structure to elevate CTEs and workforce development programming in our PK – 12 education system. These include:
    - Dedicating half, or approximately \$45 million, of the forecasted Education Fund surplus to tangible infrastructure in the PK – 12 education system that contributes to workforce development programs;
    - Funding and governance changes to CTE designed to enhance the delivery of education experiences to both high school students and CTE students while addressing the current competitive nature of funding CTE programs;
    - The Governor’s proposed FY22 Budget Adjustment includes a direct \$1.5 million Education Fund allocation for CTE centers to offset pandemic-related costs that LEAs received federal funds to cover;
    - The Governor has decided to dedicate \$1.4 million of federal GEER II funds to a create a recruitment campaign for CTE enrollment that will target multiple populations including early exposure for middle school students, engagement with parents of high school students as well as high schoolers themselves to encourage enrollment, and encouraging adult learners to grow their skills in high need occupations. In addition to broad based promotion, there will be an emphasis put on health care and the trades. The Agency of Education will contract this campaign out;

- Additionally, the Governor is dedicating the remaining \$500,000 of GEER II funds to launch two to three electric transportation (aviation and vehicles) pilot grant programs in CTEs across the state;
  - Allowing students to attend a state-designated virtual high school as their sending school for academics, which will give students more time for work-based learning and CTE courses;
  - Supporting authorizing language in the FY22 budget adjustment for Vermont Technical College to continue their work to deploy their courses in regional CTE centers, making these programs more accessible; and
  - Lastly, the Administration will be integrating work-based learning coordinators and CTE directors into a pilot program that creates 6 regional workforce coordinators, who will help better connect students and job seekers with employers, training and all the important programs we have available today but that can be difficult to access.
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- **FUNDING:** Across all funds, these activities represent a nearly \$50 million investment in career technical education and workforce development activities delivered through our schools.

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