

This response was prepared for Representative Webb, Chair House Education Committee, Vermont House of Representatives

Your Question:

You asked for additional information on how states with area CTE centers and higher rural populations fund CTE in their state.

Our Response:

States with area CTE centers take different approaches to structuring their CTE centers and providing state funds to support secondary CTE instruction at those centers. It should be noted that area CTE centers often provide instruction to adults and postsecondary students in addition to secondary students. Further, area CTE centers may exist in a broader system of providing instruction to high school students.

The following state examples provide insight into how three states structure their area CTE centers and approach providing state funds to support secondary CTE at those centers. Additionally, information is provided on how states provide funds to support transportation and other expenses associated with instruction and student access.

State Examples

Arkansas

Area CTE Center Structure

The state has a system of [Secondary Technical Career Centers](#), as outlined in the state's [Policies and Procedures for Career and Technical Education](#). The centers can exist at high schools, postsecondary technical institutes, postsecondary campuses or education service cooperatives. The centers are managed through the Department of Commerce [Office of Skills Development](#) through an annual memorandum of understanding with the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Career and Technical Education.

Programs at the centers are offered to high school juniors and seniors. The instruction provided at the centers are in [CTE programs of study](#) or approved modified programs approved by the Division of Career and Technical Education.

Funding Approach

The state provides CTE funding to the state's secondary area career centers and school districts. The state allocation for CTE centers was changed in 2019 by [Act 179](#). Starting in 2020-2021, the state no longer allocates a base per-student amount of \$3,250 for centers. Instead, the state uses tiered funding developed by the Department of Career Education and approved by the Career Education and Workforce Development Board ([Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-2305](#)). The tiered structure determines the aid for each full-time equivalent student. The Department's 2021 [CTE Policies and Procedures](#) discusses this process (pg. 16).

The state also provides [start-up grants](#) for school districts implementing new CTE programs.

[New Hampshire](#)

Area CTE Center Structure

The commissioner of education has the [authority](#) to designate regional career centers and programs in the state. The [Bureau of Career Development](#) in the New Hampshire Department of Education oversees [28 secondary regional career and technical centers and sub-centers](#).

State [statute](#) (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 188-E:5) establishes that students who have completed one year of high school can enroll in CTE centers. Programs must demonstrate alignment of curriculum to national technical core competencies.

Funding Approach

The state helps [fund](#) New Hampshire’s 28 regional CTE centers and subcenters by paying a portion of tuition and transportation through a categorical grant. The state reimburses transportation at a rate of 10 cents per student mile. The state board adopts the rate, which is not set in statute ([N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 188-E:8](#)). The amount of tuition the state covers is also not set in statute. State policy says the state will cover “a portion of the cost.” It is calculated by dividing appropriation in the budget by enrollment ([N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 188-E:9](#) and [N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 188-E:7](#)).

The state appropriated [\\$9 million in 2020](#) for regional CTE centers. While statute indicates that the school districts pay 25% of the cost and the state pays 75%, state funds for tuition and transportation appear insufficient to cover 75% of the costs, as discussed in the report to [New Hampshire Commission to Study School Funding](#).

The state also makes grants available to designated regional centers to construct career and technical education facilities or renovation, expansion, or replacement of existing regional career and technical education centers ([N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 188-E](#)).

State Specific Resource:

[Categorical Aid Brief on Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#), New Hampshire Commission for School Funding: The brief outlines an analysis of categorical aid for career and technical education. The brief also includes some comparisons to other state funding for career and technical education

[West Virginia](#)

Area CTE Center Structure

As part of the state’s delivery of CTE instruction, the state allows for the creation of career and technical education centers. The state board’s [rules](#) establish structure and related rules for multi-county career and technical education centers. The centers serve more than one county and are administered by a council composed of one county board member from each county, the county superintendent of each county and the associate state superintendent or their representative.

Funding Approach

The state provides funding for career and technical education through a block grant and categorical grant programs described in the state department of education's [career and technical education finance guide](#). The secondary block grant funds are based on a formula and allocated to institutions to support career and technical education. The formula includes hold harmless (10%), enrollment (25%), participation (30%), and completion (35%). Local education agencies must specify allocations for secondary block funds, including new programming, curriculum resources, travel and professional development, PPE, drug testing, equipment/supply, or middle schools.

State Board [rule](#) establishes how multi-county career and technical centers are funded. The council for the multi-county career and technical centers shall request state and federal financial assistance for support of instruction, administration, supervision, operation expenses and other services. The local share must be the total budget for the operation of the center minus anticipated revenues from federal and state sources, and the local share shall be proportioned among the participating counties based on the previous year's enrollment in the center.

In addition, the state also awards [equipment replacement funds](#) (pg. 3 and 8) using the same formula as the secondary block grant and competitive modernization grants through an application process for program environments, equipment, or instruction.

As established in the authority's [policy and procedures](#), the State Building Authority also awards funds for multi-county career technical education centers for school construction funding.

State Specific Resources:

- [West Virginia State Department of Education 2021 CTE Finance Guide](#): The guide provides detailed information on each of the federal and state funding sources that support schools in implementing CTE curriculum, maintaining CTE operations, starting new programs, ensuring student safety, and providing work-based learning opportunities for students.
- [West Virginia Department of Education Presentation on CTE Funding](#): The presentation provides an overview of formula and competitive funding for secondary and postsecondary CTE.