



February 23, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Senate Majority Leader  
Room 330  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblymember Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Re: State Support for Career and Technical Education Programs

Dear Governor Hochul, Senator Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of the groups who have signed below and who strongly support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for New York's students, we are asking for your assistance to ensure these highly effective programs can be sustained and expanded through an increased state investment.

District and BOCES based Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have proven highly effective in helping to provide students with the essential skills they require to successfully transition to college and career. In addition, CTE programs help ensure that businesses in New York have skilled workers, which is essential to their success and that of the state's economy. Despite these important contributions and proven successes, the state's funding for CTE programs has not kept pace with program needs.

The current reimbursement for BOCES CTE teachers provides only up to \$30,000 per CTE teacher to component districts. This amount has not been increased since 1990. This leaves a large gap between what a district is reimbursed and the salary of teachers in the CTE programs. The difference in cost has to then be covered by local tax revenue in each participating component district.

The Big 5 city school districts and other non-component school districts receive state funding for CTE programs through Special Services Aid. However, the \$3,900 per pupil formula-based funding cap falls far short of meeting the cost of CTE programs and excludes funding for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Big 5 school districts are heavily reliant on state funds and don't have the ability to raise local revenue given their fiscal dependency. Furthermore, there is no expectation that their respective municipalities will increase their local share of spending for education.

To ensure the sustainability and growth of these programs, we ask that you include the following in the 2022-23 Final Budget proposal:

- ***Increase the “aidable” salary for Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors to \$60,000 over the next three school years;***
  - *\$40,000 for SY 2022-23, \$50,000 for SY 2023-24, \$60,000 SY 2024,*
  - *This increase would be more reflective of current salary scales; and*
- ***Increase the per pupil cap and expand funding to 9th grade students for special services aid that is provided to the Big 5 school districts and other non-component school districts for CTE programs.***

As fixed costs (including contractual salary increases and health insurance) continue to rise the ability of local districts to continue to increase support to maintain existing CTE programs is in jeopardy. At the same time, in many regions and industries, demand for trained, skilled employees is increasing. CTE programs not only prepare students to enter the health care industry, but they are also leaders in training certified mechanical and electrical engineers and future employees for all aspects of the hospitality industry. However, demand is outpacing supply. Without updated and increased state support, school districts will not be able to continue to support programs at a participation level that allows these programs to expand and meet the student and industry needs, while still being mindful of local taxpayers and the tax cap.

CTE programs are a proven tool, helping students achieve academic and career success, and provide a proven alternative model for academic and career success. In 2019-20, nearly 40,000 students developed college and career-ready skills through their BOCES CTE program. 90% of BOCES CTE students graduated, a rate higher than the statewide average and while a significant number of students were able to enter the workforce from these programs, many students also went on to college. The Big 5 school districts and other non-component school districts also operate innovative and successful CTE programs. In many cases, graduation rates for pupils in these programs far exceed their district averages.

CTE programs are not just beneficial for students, but also for the business community. Many of these programs have been designed in collaboration with local businesses to ensure the programs provide students with the skills which are required by employers, and employers have a pipeline of skilled future employees. In 2019-20, more than 5,000 businesses had representatives serve on BOCES CTE advisory councils. The Big 5 districts also work with industry leaders to expand programs to meet growing workforce demands.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations strongly support Career and Technical Education Programs for students attending New York state public schools. We ask that you support these programs by including an increase in both the aidable salary for BOCES CTE instructors and Special Services Aid for CTE programs in the Big 5 school districts and other non-component school districts as part of the 2022-23 Final Budget proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kmacdonald@gvboces.org](mailto:kmacdonald@gvboces.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin MacDonald', written in a cursive style.

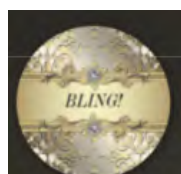
Kevin MacDonald  
Chair, BOCES Educational Consortium  
District Superintendent and CEO Genesee Valley BOCES

CC: Senator Shelley Mayer  
Assemblyman Michael Benedetto  
Michael Smingler  
Terry Pratt  
Dan Fuller  
Michael Mastroianni  
Matt Golden  
Maria Volpe McDermott  
Amanda Godkin  
Dave Thoman

# Groups in Support of Increased State Investment in Career and Technical Education Programs



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North Shore Oral Surgery, L.L.C.

Alex Montazem, D.M.D.  
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- AAR Corp
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- Adams Heating & Cooling
- Adirondack regional Chamber of Commerce
- Adirondack Studios
- Adirondack Thunder
- Advokate
- AHRC Nassau
- Albany Truck Sales
- Allied Electric Supply, Inc.
- Allied Mechanical
- Alpha Commercial Cleaning
- Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre
- American Airpower Museum
- American Ballet Theatre School
- American Building Contractors
- American Job Center
- Anderson Equipment Company
- Android Police
- Appolo Heating
- Aquarium of Niagara
- Arieno Dental Laboratory
- Arise of Central New York
- Army National Guard
- Arts School Network
- ASG 365
- Asha's Farm Sanctuary
- Atlantean Entertainment
- Auto Collision & Glass
- AutocheX
- B&B Plumbing/Heating
- Bailey & Harris Architects
- Basil Toyota
- Batoto Yetu
- BD BARD
- Beach Painting, Inc.
- Bear With Us Productions
- Beaver Island Nature Center
- Belknap Heating & Cooling
- Beyond Print Solutions
- Billy Joel
- Bison Automotive & Detail Inc.
- Bison Print Co
- Black & McDonald
- Black Bear Fuel Oil
- Black Iron Bystro
- Bling!
- BLKDOG
- Blueox Energy Products and Services
- Bonacio Construction
- Boyd Corporation (Aavid)
- Brai Beauty Bar
- Brawdy Construction Inc.
- Brian Haimes
- Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 3-NY
- Brockport Smiles
- Broken Box Mime Theater
- Brookside Multicare Center
- Brookville Center for Children's Services
- Browns Ford
- Buffalo Bulls
- Buffalo Construction Consultants
- Buffalo Historical Museum
- Buffalo Truck Center, Inc.
- Buffalo Zoo
- Camp Little Notch
- Canisius Golden Griffins
- Capital Region Chamber
- Capitol District Supply
- Cappellino Cadillac Inc.
- Carpenters Local 276
- Carver Companies
- Cazenovia Equipment Company
- Celebrity Day Spa,
- Cell Phone Repair (CPR)
- Center for Economic Growth
- Center State CEO
- Chakra Communications,
- Chase Enterprises
- Chelsea Day Spa
- Child's Automotive
- Chili Gas
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- CIR Electric, 2517
- Cisco
- CMM Sitework
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- Common Roots
- Complete Quality Electric, Inc.
- ConnexCare
- Construction Exchange
- Contemporary Musical Theatre
- Contracts Unlimited
- Cornell University Cooperative Extension
- Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cortland Biomedical

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- Crane Home Care
- Creatacor
- Creative Stone & Cabinets
- Crisafulli Bros. Home Services
- Crunch Fitness
- Cummins Inc.
- Curtis Lumber
- Curtiss-Wright
- Curtze Foods,
- Custom Laser, Inc.
- Day Automation
- Degraff-Bloom Custom Builders
- Derrick
- Designer Shoe Warehouse (DSW)
- Detor Automotive
- Dieco
- Diversified Mfg. Inc.
- DK Machine
- DKM Steel Construction Corp
- Dodge
- Done Well
- Doty Machine
- Driver's Village
- Dunkirk Metal Products of WNY, LLC
- Dunn Tire
- Durkin Propane
- DWC Mechanical
- E & R Machine Inc.
- Eagle Electrical Group, Inc.
- EJ
- Electric Solutions
- Elite Wall Systems
- Emmet Belknap Intermediate School
- Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island
- Empro Niagara
- Endless Echo
- ES Systems Inc.
- Espey
- Esporta Fitness
- Excel Machine Technology
- Excelco Newbrook
- Exploring the Arts
- Family Service League
- Ferguson Electric
- Fisher-Price
- FMC, Various Locations
- Ford Motor Company
- Fort Hyde Kennels
- Fort Miller Group
- Frey Electric Construction Co.
- Frisbees Landscaping
- G.A. Bove
- Galusha & Sons LLC
- General Motors Components Holding
- Generation Next Energy Pros
- Gerber Collision & Glass
- Gleason
- Global Foundaries
- Goldwell of NY,
- Greco Construction
- Greno Industries
- Habitat for Humanity
- Harbor Energy Solutions
- Harrison and Burrowes Bridge Constructors
- Haun Welding Supply
- Hawk Racing
- Hilbert College
- Hobbes Canvas Printing, Virtual
- Honda
- Hop Energy
- HorseAbility
- House of Tires
- Howell Motors
- Huether Heating and Cooling
- Hunt Companies, Inc
- Hunter Engineering Company
- Hyundai Doosan Infracore
- IBEW Local 237
- I-CAR
- Ideal Industries, Inc.
- Inch by Inch Childcare
- Innovate518
- Intention Films and Media, LLC.
- Iron Workers Local 60
- Irving Tissue
- ISAAC Heating & Air Conditioning
- IUOE 158
- IVY LEA Construction
- J.F. Machining
- Jeep
- Jersey Mikes Subs
- JetBlue Airways
- JNL Contracting Inc.
- Johnstone Supply, Inc.
- Jo-Mark Installations

- José Decamps & Joanna Zacharewicz Dance Camp
- K&Ns Foods USA
- Kendall & Associates
- Kenworth Northeast
- Ker Boom Kidz Academy
- Keys Fence & Gate
- King and King Architects
- KP Organization Painting & Wallcovering
- Kreher's Farm
- Kurbs Family Chiro & Wellness
- Laborers Local 157
- Lake George Chamber
- Lake Shore Transportation
- Lancaster Development, Inc.
- LCTV, 293
- Lehigh Construction Group Inc.
- LINC Products & Services, LLC
- Little Garden's Childcare
- Little Leaders Learning Center
- Logics Hair Salon
- Long Island Arts Alliance
- Lori Belilove & The Isadora Duncan Dance Company
- Magic Box Productions
- Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier
- Manzella Marketing
- Martin Electric
- Matrix Imaging Solutions
- Mavis Discount Tire
- MBI Marine Bulkheading
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- Michaels Electric Supply
- Micro Instrument Corp
- Mid Tel
- Middlepot Family Health Center
- Miller Mechanical
- Millwork Architectural & Custom Woodworking
- Milton CAT
- MJ Mechanical Services, Inc.
- MMC Millwork
- Modern Disposal Services
- Mohawk Collision Center
- Momentum
- Monroe's Place
- Morcon Tissue
- Motofab Lifts
- MTA New York City Transit
- Myles Tool Co.
- Nassau County EMS Academy
- Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
- National Cirus Project
- National Electrical Contractors Association
- National Grid
- Nellist Electrical
- New Vision Industries, Inc.
- New York State Association of School Business Officials
- New York State Conference of Big 5 School Districts
- New York State Council of School Superintendents
- New York State Parent teacher Association
- New York State School Boards Association
- New York State United Teachers
- NFADA
- NFTA Metro
- Niagara County Sheriff's Dept.,
- Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Niagara Falls Culinary Institute
- Niagara Frontier Auto Dealers Association (NFADA)
- Niagara Precision Inc.
- Niagara Purple Eagles
- Nickerson Corporations
- Normandin Marketing
- North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
- North Collins - National Tractor Trailer School
- North Shore Oral Surgery
- Northeast Heating Cooling Refrigeration Co., Inc.
- Northeastern Retail Lumber Association
- NSH USA
- NT Fire Department
- Nuclear Alloys Corporation
- NYMAT Machine Tool Corp
- NYS Builders Association
- NYS Canal Corp, NY
- NYS Parks, Various Locations
- NYU Stein Hardt
- Okra Dance Company
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- Sapphire Salon
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- Schwing Electrical Supply Corp.
- Scott Smith & Son
- SEDC
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- Shelridge Country Club
- Shining Star Collision Inc.
- Shipman Print Solutions
- Simmons Machine Tool Corporation
- SK Herefords
- SMC Corporation of America
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- Snap-On
- SnowPlow Doctor
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- Southampton Youth Bureau
- Sprinkler Fitters
- St. Mary's Health Care
- St. Peters Kitchen
- Stewarts Shops
- Stockham Lumber Co.
- STOMP
- Stone Bridge Iron & Steel, Inc.
- Strong Island Styles
- Stryker
- Suffolk Independent Living Organization
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- SUNY Cobleskill
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- Super Sounds Entertainment
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- Synergy Hair Studio
- Syracuse Label & Surround Printing
- Tackapausha Museum & Preserve
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- The Academy of Noise
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- The Wesley Community
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- Tracey Road Equipment
- Tri Community Ambulance Services
- Tri-R Mechanical Services, Inc
- Twin City Ambulance
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- United States Marine Corps
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