

With regard to CSDE's efforts related to dual enrollment and trade opportunities, the agency – along with the Office of Workforce Strategy was awarded a \$14 million grant in the Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments. Of this funding, \$9 million will be dedicated to the CSDE Dual Enrollment Expansion Initiative, and \$5 million will be dedicated to the OWS Career Pathways Program, which are described below:

CSDE Dual Enrollment Expansion Initiative:

- This will establish a multi-year grant for high schools to apply and expand existing dual enrollment partnerships or create new ones, the goal of which is to provide all districts with the ability to incorporate such programs to maximize dual enrollment opportunities for Connecticut students to earn higher education credits in high schools.
- In doing so, we seek to expand the partnerships between our secondary school districts with UCONN, CSCU and Independent Institutions of Higher Education so that our high school students have increased access to high school courses that simultaneously give them college credit applicable to an Associates or Bachelors Degree.
- The expansion of dual enrollment programs will enable Connecticut students have access and exposure to higher education which will encourage the pursuit of college degrees after graduation; help eliminate the cost of higher education by gaining credits before matriculating at IHE's; and, serve as part of college and career readiness programs which help prepare students for the most in-demand jobs and industries in both short and long term, and will also help form a base for the OWS Expanding Career Pathways program.
- This proposal seeks to double the number of dual enrollment courses from around 3,000 to around 6,000 by the 2025-26 school year resulting in the percentage of high school seniors with at least six college credits increasing 20% by 2030. Further, research has shown that college entrance rates within one year after high school graduation will increase 10 percentage points for students from low-income families and black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students by the graduating class of 2026.

OWS Expanding Career Pathways Initiative:

- We are assisting the Office of Workforce Strategies to establish programs which seek create college and career readiness programs in school districts where they will be paired with institutions of higher education and local businesses seeking to create pathways for students to more easily enter the workforce with the necessary credentials, training and education to ensure placement in well paying, in-demand jobs, while also earning college credits.
- A key element is the involvement of the local business community to help design and create programs which emphasize their current and future hiring needs, including on-site training, hands-on experience and with the help of the higher education institutions, the necessary credentials and stackable credentials so that students may directly enter the workforce after graduation, if that is the path they choose.
- At inception, this will focus on 9 districts and divided into tiers based on how where the district is in terms of their current development of college and career readiness programming; these schools will be divided into three tiers depending on that level of progress - advanced, where there are established programs which need help fine tuning details and possible expanding to other surrounding communities; moderate, where districts have some aspects of the program

currently instituted, but need help with further development; and, beginning, where districts have a strong interest, but have not yet begun the process.

Both of these programs seek to prepare our high school graduates to live and work in Connecticut after graduation, build a sustainable workforce for our businesses, and maximize opportunities available to every student.