

Workforce Education Fund

Annual Report to the Government Operations and Audit Committee

Fiscal Year 2024

**South Dakota Department of Education
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Workforce Education Fund

Overview

In 2013, the South Dakota Legislature passed SB 235, which established the Building South Dakota (BSD) Fund. According to the bill, each year 30% of the BSD fund is to be transferred to the Workforce Education Fund (WEF). Initially, WEF dollars were to be used for three purposes: to cover the State's share of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) adjustment in the State Aid to General Education Funding formula for fiscal years 2014 through 2016; to provide secondary career and technical education grants; and to provide additional one-time funding to school districts.

Over the years, those purposes have been modified by the Legislature. The State's share of the LEP adjustment is now covered with general funds through the General State Aid to Education formula. The one-time funding to school districts was changed to provide for one-time education enhancement programs. And, in 2018, the Legislature passed SB 81, which limited the fund to providing grants for new and existing secondary career and technical education programs.

This report provides information regarding the secondary career and technical education (CTE) grants.

Secondary Career and Technical Education Grants (Workforce Education Grants)

Overview:

First awarded in FY2016, the Workforce Education Grants provide school districts and private, nonprofit entities in South Dakota the opportunity to make transformative change in CTE programs. High quality CTE programs give students the knowledge, skills, and experiences to be well prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce. Partnerships among secondary education, postsecondary education, and business and industry lay the foundation for modern CTE programs. These grants efficiently increase the number of students with access to high quality CTE programs in the state. Currently the Legislature appropriates \$490,000 annually to fund these grants, with authority of up to \$1.25 million.

Who is Eligible:

Eligible applicants are Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and private, nonprofit entities with projects designed to serve middle and high school students. Entities that are awarded grants will serve as fiscal agents through the completion of their projects. All applications must demonstrate commitment by all grant partners to the grant project and its sustainability following the conclusion of the grant.

Proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Build, reform or enhance an approved secondary CTE program;
2. Align to high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage careers and postsecondary education programs in South Dakota; and
3. Demonstrate the ability to complete the project.

Proposed projects must fall within one or more of the following categories:

1. Evaluation for alignment to postsecondary education and workforce demands;
2. Development of career pathways or programs of study;
3. Development of career guidance or work-based learning programs;
4. Educator training;
5. Facilities;
6. Equipment; or
7. Instructional materials.

The Workforce Education Grants are awarded through a competitive submission and review process. As such, grant teams are expected to make significant and meaningful improvements to CTE programs; applications should not be one-off projects for small equipment purchases, student transportation, or similar activities. Projects should be completed within 18 months, and a one-to-one match is required.

Priority is given to projects that demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics and meet the requirements outlined in SD Administrative Rule 24:10:47:

- A project evaluating local CTE systems for the purposes of redesigning approved secondary CTE programs;
- An innovative project demonstrating alignment to postsecondary education and South Dakota workforce needs and including work-based learning, dual or concurrent credit courses and any applicable CTSO;
- A project which includes collaboration between multiple secondary schools;
- A project demonstrating partnerships with postsecondary education and business or industry;
- A project including industry-grade practices, equipment, and student certifications;
- A project integrating academic content, work-readiness skills, and entrepreneurship education;
- A project increasing access to and support for approved secondary CTE programs in rural areas;
- A project including plans for sustainability;
- A project which supports the retention of highly effective teachers, career counselors, and administrators for approved secondary CTE programs.

Grants Awarded:

Grants totaling \$7,864,960.31 have been awarded from FY2016 through the end of FY2024. A complete history of school districts and other entities awarded Workforce Education Grants can be found at the end of this report.

A snapshot of recent projects and the impact they make include:

Edgemont School District

The Edgemont School District utilized their grant to purchase heavy equipment simulators. These simulators will allow students to train on 11 various pieces of heavy equipment: excavator, backhoe, wheel loader, articulated dump truck, bulldozer, motor grader, forward simulator, harvester simulator, skid steer, forklift, and telehandler. This project also provides students the opportunity to obtain an industry-recognized certification, specifically NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification, which in turn shows potential employers these students have a level of proficiency before they are even hired. Ultimately, the use of these simulators will provide students with more options to easily transition to a post-secondary college or the workforce.

Parker School District

To provide a safer environment for student learning, the Parker School District is building and expanding their Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources facility. This newly created space will provide advanced offerings to help expose students to career and technical education courses in a safe environment that encourages students to gain the necessary skills to enter the workforce or post-secondary and succeed. This project will also expand workforce connections in and around their community. These students will be able to partner with surrounding businesses and learn how their work in the classroom will help prepare them for the workforce. The project will assist the district in their long-term goals of adding additional career and technical education programs in the upcoming years.

Sioux Falls School District

The Sioux Falls School District (SFSD) applied their grant funds to create a mock veterinary clinic. This will allow students to develop technical knowledge and practical skills for proper animal handling, animal behavior and biosecurity principals to combat the spread of infectious agents within the production facility or animal hospital. The overall goal of the SFSD is to develop one of the best agricultural and animal science training programs for high school students in the nation. The SFSD also partnered with local veterinary clinics, pet shops, and post-secondary education institutes to ensure this project will provide their students with the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to move forward in their futures with confidence.

Wall School District

To meet the local workforce demands, the Wall School District committed to add a Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing to their current school building with the use of their award. The CTE addition will provide students a safe environment to participate in industry certification as well as modern career and technical education. The extension will consist of a welding/fabrication shop, a woodworking/construction shop with finishing room, and additional CTE classrooms. With an updated space, more students will have the opportunity to learn technical skills and knowledge safely. In turn, the CTE programs will prepare students for post-secondary education as well as the workforce. The Wall School District is hopeful their students will want to remain in the area after their secondary education because of how prepared they are to help build the workforce especially with the expansion of an industrial park and over forty housing developments in the Wall community.

Grants are awarded in the spring of each grant year. As of August 19, 2024, there are five Workforce Education Grants open with a balance of \$962,275.00 remaining on the grants. Details of the open grants are in the table on the next page:

School District/Entity	Grant Year	Total Awarded	Balance to Date	Description
Parker School District	2023	225,000.00	225,000.00	Construction of a CTE addition to expand current space
Sioux Falls School District	2023	62,275.00	62,275.00	Equipment to support the animal husbandry and veterinary science technical training program
Woonsocket School District	2023	225,000.00	225,000.00	Construct an addition for ag, food and natural resources; architecture and construction; and manufacturing
Custer School District	2024	225,000.00	225,000.00	Construction of a CTE addition to expand current space.
Huron School District	2024	225,000.00	225,000.00	Construction of a CTE addition to expand current space.
TOTAL		\$962,275.00	\$962,275.00	

*Grant Agreements can be found at www.open.sd.gov. For more information, visit <https://doe.sd.gov/cte/WEG.aspx>

The complete history of CTE grants is detailed in the table that follows:

School District/Entity	Fiscal Year Grant was Awarded	Grant Agreement Number*	Grant Award End Date	Grant Award Amount	Amount reimbursed YTD FY2017 - FY2023	Amount reimbursed YTD FY 2024	Amount reimbursed YTD FY 2025 As of 08/19/2024	Grant Amount Dismissed After Final Grant Payment	Balance Remaining
Gayville-Volin School District	2016	2016G-526	12/28/2017	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 99,995.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4.81	\$ -
Meade School District	2016	2016G-473	09/01/2017	\$ 28,504.64	\$ 27,689.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 814.76	\$ -
Mitchell School District	2016	2016G-484	09/01/2017	\$ 107,233.00	\$ 99,071.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,161.18	\$ -
Rapid City School District	2016	2016G-479	09/01/2017	\$ 43,446.00	\$ 35,120.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,325.96	\$ -
Webster School District	2016	2016G-482	12/28/2017	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 39,691.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,308.06	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 322,183.64	\$ 301,568.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,614.77	\$ -
Aberdeen Development Corporation	2017	2017G-600	11/01/2018	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 249,221.51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 778.49	\$ -
Armour School District	2017	2017G-594	07/31/2018	\$ 17,495.00	\$ 17,495.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Belle Fourche School District	2017	2017G-595	11/14/2018	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Brookings School District	2017	2017G-604	07/31/2018	\$ 493,500.00	\$ 314,961.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 178,538.43	\$ -
Hitchcock-Tulare School District	2017	2017G-180	09/01/2017	\$ 33,169.00	\$ 32,978.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190.42	\$ -
Lennox School District	2017	2017G-603	06/30/2018	\$ 41,323.00	\$ 41,323.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
McIntosh School District	2017	2017G-602	07/31/2018	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 76,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Northwestern Area School District	2017	2017G-605	11/01/2018	\$ 74,505.35	\$ 69,123.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,381.53	\$ -
Pierre School District	2017	2017G-601	07/31/2018	\$ 244,500.00	\$ 244,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Platte-Geddes School District	2017	2017G-599	06/29/2018	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Redfield School District	2017	2017G-440	08/20/2018	\$ 55,575.00	\$ 34,042.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,532.62	\$ -

Sioux Falls Career & Technical Education Academy	2017	2017G-181	12/28/2017	\$ 99,760.00	\$ 91,661.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,098.72	\$ -
Webster School District	2017	2017G-597	11/01/2018	\$ 133,158.00	\$ 133,158.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Yankton School District	2017	2017G-179	11/01/2017	\$ 278,400.00	\$ 277,738.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 661.96	\$ -
Yankton School District	2017	2017G-593	12/01/2018	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 249,654.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345.80	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 2,642,385.35	\$ 2,426,857.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 215,527.97	\$ -
Estelline School District	2018	2018G-571	12/01/2019	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 103,860.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,139.33	\$ -
Meade School District	2018	2018G-570	12/01/2019	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 21,951.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48.78	\$ -
Milbank School District	2018	2018G-572	12/01/2019	\$ 44,424.00	\$ 44,423.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.48	\$ -
Mitchell Area Development	2018	2018G-577	12/01/2019	\$ 79,984.00	\$ 79,984.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mitchell School District	2018	2018G-569	12/01/2019	\$ 46,429.00	\$ 46,429.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RTEC, Inc.	2018	2018G-573	12/01/2019	\$ 45,540.00	\$ 45,277.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262.50	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 388,377.00	\$ 341,925.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,451.09	\$ -
Dell Rapids School District	2019	2019G-461	11/01/2020	\$ 11,661.34	\$ 9,189.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,471.82	\$ -
Deubrook Area School District	2019	2019G-460	11/01/2020	\$ 16,625.00	\$ 16,625.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Harrisburg School District	2019	2019G-459	11/01/2020	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Menno School District	2019	2019G-456	11/01/2020	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mitchell School District	2019	2019G-458	11/01/2020	\$ 72,086.48	\$ 63,494.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,591.50	\$ -
Rapid City Area School District	2019	2019G-468	11/01/2020	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sioux Falls Catholic Schools (O'Gorman)	2019	2019G-462	11/01/2020	\$ 91,028.90	\$ 90,995.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.64	\$ -
Tea Area School District	2019	2019G-457	11/01/2020	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 1,091,401.72	\$ 1,080,304.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,096.96	\$ -
Canton School District	2020	2020G-397	12/01/2021	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 47,227.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,772.60	\$ -

Huron School District	2020	2020G-395	12/01/2021	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
McCook School District	2020	2020G-398	12/01/2021	\$ 57,945.00	\$ 56,526.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,418.24	\$ -
Mitchell School District	2020	2020G-396	12/01/2021	\$ 56,290.35	\$ 49,243.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,047.22	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 399,235.35	\$ 377,997.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,238.06	\$ -
Brookings School District	2021	2021G-759	12/01/2022	\$ 204,000.00	\$ -	\$ 198,830.00	\$ -	\$ 5,170.00	\$ -
Edmunds Central School District	2021	2021G-760	12/01/2022	\$ 142,453.51	\$ -	\$ 142,233.14	\$ -	\$ 220.37	\$ -
Rosholt School District	2021	2021G-761	12/01/2022	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mitchell School District	2021	2021G-762	12/01/2022	\$ 118,791.24	\$ -	\$ 111,315.02	\$ -	\$ 7,476.22	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 690,244.75	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 452,378.16	\$ -	\$ 12,866.59	\$ -
Bridgewater-Emery School District	2022	2022G-485	12/01/2023	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bon Homme School District	2022	2022G-486	12/01/2023	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 10,518.48	\$ 214,481.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Florence School District	2022	2022G-487	12/01/2023	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tea Area School District	2022	2022G-488	12/01/2023	\$ 118,500.00	\$ -	\$ 118,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Spearfish School District	2022	2022G-491	12/01/2023	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Canistota School District	2022	2022G-524	11/24/2023	\$ 40,400.00	\$ -	\$ 39,341.52	\$ -	\$ 1,058.48	\$ -
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 1,058,900.00	\$ 10,518.48	\$ 1,047,323.04	\$ -	\$ 1,058.48	\$ -
Sioux Falls School District	2023	2023G-552	12/01/2024	\$ 62,275.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,275.00
Wall School District	2023	2023G-553	12/01/2024	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Woonsocket School District	2023	2023G-554	12/01/2024	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00
Edgemont School District	2023	2023G-555	12/01/2024	\$ 84,957.50	\$ -	\$ 84,957.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parker School District	2023	2023G-580	12/01/2024	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00

Grant Year Totals:				\$ 822,232.50	\$ -	\$ 309,957.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 512,275.00
Huron School District	2024	2024G-579	12/01/2025	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00
Custer School District	2024	2024G-580	12/01/2025	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00
Grant Year Totals:				\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000.00
Workforce Education Fund Grand Total				\$ 7,864,960.31	\$ 5,216,550.85	\$ 1,357,280.54	\$ -	\$ 328,853.92	\$ 962,275.00

*Grant Agreements can be found at www.open.sd.gov