



Ohio House of Representatives  
Finance Committee  
House Bill 49, State Budget

Testimony of William DiMascio  
Coordinator of Career Technical Education  
West Shore Career Technical District / Lakewood City Schools

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Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is William DiMascio and I serve as the Coordinator of Career Technical Education for the West Shore Career Technical District and Lakewood City Schools. I also serve on the Board of the Ohio Association of Career Technical Administrators. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 49, the State's biennial budget bill.

The mission of our district and Career Technical Education (CTE) is to connect students with growing industries in the Ohio and American economy and to give them the skills and training required for long-term success. CTE students graduate job ready with the industry credentials and skills that Ohio employers are seeking. They also graduate College ready and in some cases with college credit already under their belt.

We would like to express our concern that the proposed state budget has recommended a severe reduction in the Tech Prep Expansion Grants under the Career Technical Education (CTE) Enhancement Line Item. These reductions will negatively impact all career technical education students in the State of Ohio. Tech Prep pathway services are coordinated through six regional centers that serve secondary and postsecondary partners within 91 career technical planning districts, 23 community colleges and 14 universities.

Jointly administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Tech Prep represents a seamless high school to college to employment pathway that blends high-level academics with hands-on career technical education. For more than 25 years, Ohio has invested in this concept, earning national recognition for its system of enhanced services and employment- focused technical education. The Tech Prep Regional Centers:

- Connect secondary (7-12) college, adult and apprenticeship programs in meaningful Programs of Study/career pathways
- Provide secondary students and adult learners with opportunities to earn college credit through College Credit Plus, statewide articulation or bilateral articulation agreements
- Ensure students are aware and take advantage of postsecondary credit options

- Assist school districts, Ohio Technical Centers and colleges in efforts to adhere to statewide career technical credit transfer requirements and bilateral agreement expectations
- Develop exemplary Programs of Study in compliance with Federal Perkins funding requirements and process program approval and program renewal applications

In FY 2016 alone, Tech Prep created more than 2,000 programs of study; managed almost 1500 local college credit articulation agreements and supported access to statewide articulation opportunities so that career tech students have exceptional opportunity to earn multiple types and amounts of college credit and industry recognized credentials; facilitated more than 400 professional development workshops; and conducted employer outreach and college transition events engaging students, educators, employers and parents statewide.

The proposed budget reduces Tech Prep Regional Center funding from \$2.8 million a year to \$1.8 million in FY18 to \$936,000 in FY19, severely reducing the ability of the centers to serve career technical education students, employers, families, teachers and administrators. Without this funding, services benefitting career technical education students will drop dramatically, negatively impacting business and industry statewide.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, at a time when career technical education is preparing Ohio students for in-demand high wage jobs in the Ohio economy, and most of these jobs require training beyond high school, Tech Prep is proving a valuable service to students, employers, families, teachers, and administrators at both the secondary and post-secondary level. On behalf of our students and members, we respectfully request that funding for Tech Prep be restored in the coming biennial budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I'll be happy to answer any of your questions.