

Workforce Readiness Incentive Grants

Overview

[Idaho Code 33-1635](#) establishes the Workforce Readiness Incentive (WRI) to recognize quality secondary career technical education (CTE) pathway programs.

Criteria

The Idaho Division of Career Technical Education (IDCTE) will use assessment and SkillStack® data as of April 30 each year to identify eligible concentrators.

WRI funds are disbursed to LEAs (Local Education Agencies) based on the number of CTE concentrators in each approved pathway who met all of the following criteria:

- Passed their respective Technical Skills Assessment (TSA).
- Passed their Workplace Readiness Assessment (WRA).
- Earned all relevant sub-badges in SkillStack®.

If a concentrator does not meet all three criteria within the same school year, their eligibility will be considered when the final criterion is met. For example, a concentrator may earn the relevant badges and pass the TSA as a junior but not pass the WRA until the following school year. Retakes of the TSA will be considered if the final assessment was administered by April 30.

For eligibility calculations, LEAs use the correct Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) course codes for students enrolled in the capstone courses. IDCTE will use ISEE data submitted by the LEAs when calculating eligibility.

Eligibility

All secondary CTE pathway programs that offer a TSA.

Per statute, pathways that receive funding as part of a career technical center (CTC) are not eligible for WRI.

Use of Funds

- Recognizing and retaining properly endorsed CTE teacher(s) in the qualifying pathway. The legislative intent of the WRI was to provide incentive funding to recognize the CTE teacher(s) in qualifying pathway programs. LEAs may develop internal policies to govern the distribution of funds to eligible teachers, including the pay period for disbursement and any relevant formulas or calculations if funds are divided among multiple teachers. The total funding per qualifying teacher cannot exceed \$4,000 per year. If the total program award is over \$4,000 per qualifying teacher, the remaining funds must be used for the qualifying program.
- Acquiring industry-standard equipment, materials, and supplies necessary to deliver the qualifying pathway. Please refer to the [Allowable Uses of Added-Cost Funds](#) document located in the Educator Portal.

- Providing students, in the qualifying pathway, workforce experiences, and guidance on career and postsecondary options

LEAs may not distribute funding to teachers outside of the qualifying pathway program or retain these funds for other purposes.

Timeline

- As of April 30 - IDCTE identifies eligible concentrators using assessment and SkillStack® data.
- Once notified of eligibility, LEAs have 7 days to opt out of receiving funds.
- By May 31 - IDCTE distributes funds to LEAs based on the number of eligible concentrators within each pathway program.
 - IDCTE will include a detailed list of the total grant funding for the LEA, the qualifying pathway programs, and the total funding per pathway program.
 - LEAs distribute funds, in their entirety, to the relevant pathway programs.
- By June 30 - Grant expenditure reports and documentation are due to IDCTE
 - Any funds not expended by June 30 must be returned to IDCTE.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if a program doesn't have a TSA yet?

Only pathway programs that have an assessment are eligible for the WRI.

How is "equipment" defined?

Allowed

- Industry standard equipment costing \$500 or more with an expected life greater than two years.
- Industry standard computers and peripherals above and beyond equipment provided to academic classrooms.

Not allowed

- Equipment unrelated to program instruction.
- Technology related to general instructional delivery (e.g., projectors or cell phones)

Please refer to the [Allowable Uses of Added-Cost Funds](#) document located in the Educator Portal.

Why are career technical centers ineligible?

Per statute, pathways that receive funding as part of a career technical center (CTC) are not eligible for PQI Incentive Awards.

How are awards calculated?

The total annual appropriation is \$190,000. The per-student rate is determined by the total appropriation divided by the number of eligible students. The rate is recalculated each year.