

Submitter: Bill Blevins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3446

I appreciate the opportunity to express my strong support for the proposed rule change regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding criteria. This change is essential to ensuring that students engage in high-quality CTE programs that equip them with the skills and experiences needed for high-wage, high-demand careers.

Under the current rule, students can qualify for funding by earning an industry-recognized credential, even if they have not completed multiple courses in a state-approved CTE program of study. While industry credentials are valuable, they alone do not guarantee workforce readiness. The proposed change ensures that students receive comprehensive, hands-on learning by requiring them to complete at least three credits in an approved CTE program before a credential factors into increased funding.

This change will strengthen workforce readiness. Completing three CTE credits ensures that students develop a deeper understanding of their field and gain technical skills beyond what a single credential provides. This better prepares them for long-term success in high-wage, high-demand industries. This change will also ensure high-quality program alignment. The rule aligns funding with structured, state-approved CTE programs, reinforcing the importance of completing full pathways rather than earning isolated credentials. This supports industry needs by ensuring students have both academic foundations and hands-on experience.