

## **Anticipated Changes to Vocational-Technical Education Enhancement Grant Administration for Fiscal Year 2016**

While administration and planning for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Vocational Enhancement-Technical Grants includes some modified policy from prior years, more significant changes are planned for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016; FY16). Some of these changes may require significant adjustment and planning at both the local and state levels in order for an orderly transition. The potential for such an impact warrants a brief, general description of those changes which may hold the greatest potential for local adjustment.

**First**, each program eligible for funding shall be aligned with a locally-development program improvement plan which includes a needs assessment, anticipated outcomes, and a plan for evaluation. Furthermore, program improvement plans will be aligned with appropriate building improvement plan, and developed by affected faculty and administration, and preferably representation of related industry.

This plan will identify what program improvements have been prioritized to increase effectiveness, upgrade and/or modernize capacity in order to provide career technical instruction designed to prepare students for success in the global economy of today and the future. Beginning with FY16, Vocational-Technical Education Enhancement Grant funding requests will be driven by those needs for equipment, supplies and other eligible purchases as identified by the program improvement plan as priorities for meeting short- and longer-term objectives.

**Second**, each program per grantee will be eligible to apply for Vocational-Technical Education Enhancement Grant funding once every three years. Multiple state-approved programs per grantee may apply during the same year, and follow the same three-year cycle, or a grantee may opt to create an internal schedule assigning individual programs for unique planning and funding cycles.

Exceptions to this restriction could include grantees with multiple campuses in which similar or the same program operated in an autonomous manner, a state-approved program which was experiencing significant expansion in student enrollment from that point in which the three-year funding cycle had begun, and items uniquely updated on an annual basis which require yearly purchase, such as certain service manuals..

**Third**, the State will be seeking to develop a tenable and allowable methodology to enable the expansion of career technical education content which is eligible for Vocational-Technical Education Enhancement Grant funding. The intent is not to replace the present system of aligning instructional content with high demand occupations as the qualifier for funding, but to explore the possibility of further qualifying occupations which are necessary or even unique to industrial clusters which are targeted for prioritized economic development growth.

**Fourth**, the cost threshold to qualify an item as equipment will increase from \$200 to \$1,000. This is the policy in place for all other grant programs administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and this increase will bring the Vocational-Technical Education Enhancement Grant in compliance with Department's and overall State guidelines.

With that future change, the enhancement grant equipment threshold will also include a caveat that qualifies an item with a unit acquisition cost under \$1,000 which is considered attractive or easily pilfered. These “sensitive” items may include audio-visual equipment, digital cameras, laptops, television sets, DVD players, power tools, electronic tablets, and computers and accessories.

**Finally**, the anticipated changes for FY16 and beyond as described in this section were not developed in a vacuum, but rather as a result of informal discussion with, and requests for input from local career technical education practitioners. During the upcoming year, discussions of this nature are anticipated to continue, in addition to the potential of opportunities for more formal joint communication and planning.

Continuing with the intent and desire for change to be made as a result Comments, questions, and concerns from CTE practitioner and other interested parties should be submitted via email to [enhancement@dese.mo.gov](mailto:enhancement@dese.mo.gov).