



# DAN FEYEN

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## STATE SENATOR

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To: The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Trade  
From: Sen. Dan Feyen  
Re: Senate Bill 16

Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing today.

Senate Bill 16 provides additional funding to the career and technical education grant program that was created in 2013 by Wisconsin Act 59. The purpose of the program is to promote technical education and career readiness in high schools. The idea behind the bill was to identify industries and occupations that face workforce shortages, approve industry-recognized certification programs that will address the workforce shortages, and to grant awards of \$1000 per pupil to school districts for each completed, industry-recognized certification program. \$3 million dollars of Fast Forward money was appropriated in order to fund the grant.

The Class of 2017 had 5,525 valid applicants. Therefore, for each valid applicant school districts received \$640.75, which is \$359.25 fewer dollars than the legislature intended when creating the program. It is projected the amount of money will continue to shrink as school districts continue to graduate more students with industry-recognized certificates. The program is working, students are graduating with the skills employers need, and now the legislature needs to step in and continue to support a winning initiative.

I know many schools in my district have used this money in their technical education programs. For instance, in Oshkosh grant funds have been used to “support teachers that facilitate Youth Apprenticeship coordination, to fund professional development and training for teachers to be able to deliver the content at the level needed to meet the certification requirements, to buy curriculum and software additions, and to reimburse students who successfully pass the CNA exam.” In Fond du Lac, funds from the grant have been used for professional development, materials, and adding a STEM program that explores pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science

SB 16 provides \$3.5 million dollars in additional funding for CTE grants. This bill would ensure Wisconsin is supporting technical education in high schools, growing a qualified workforce, and doing so in a manner that ensures school districts are only receiving dollars when they’ve proven their students are prepared.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



# JOAN BALLWEG

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Co-CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Bill 16: Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants  
Testimony of State Representative Joan Ballweg  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Trade  
February 13, 2019

Thank you, Chair Feyen, and members of the committee for holding this public hearing on the Career and Technical Education Incentive Grants bill.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) gives K-12 students the opportunity to participate in work-based learning programs to obtain relevant academic skills as well as employability skills and workforce behaviors needed to succeed in a career. CTE grants are designed for schools to offer programs in industries or occupations with workforce shortages. This funding is used to help schools work with businesses to implement certificate programs, purchase equipment and operate programs.

Currently, the state funds CTE Incentive Grants to K-12 schools through a \$3 million appropriation under the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Under current law, DWD awards \$1,000 per pupil to school districts for each student who obtains a high school diploma and completes an industry-recognized certification program approved by DWD. The Department of Public Instruction also works with DWD on certificate verifications, to process claims, and pay schools.

This is a successful program that continues grow. The business and education communities appreciate and support these changes and the opportunities that this program affords our students to be ready to join the workforce. By increasing our appropriation, we can reach more students who will benefit from the program and better Wisconsin in the future.

Thank you for considering this bill, and I am happy to answer any questions.

1300 Industrial Drive  
Fennimore, WI 53809  
February 13, 2019

To Senator Dan Feyen and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Trade:

My name is Tom Martin and I am the Career and Technical Education Coordinator (CTEC) on the School to Work Team at the Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) 3, Fennimore, WI. I would like to thank the Committee for holding this very important hearing.

On behalf of the 34 districts we represent, they've asked us to forward a letter of unanimous support for Senate Bill 16.

Since 2015, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant funding has allowed our districts to begin building rigorous programming. Whether it be through our consortium's rapidly growing Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program (experiencing a near 300% increase in membership since 2015) to a systemic consortium plan for incorporating a myriad of eligible third-party certifications, our districts have been on an enhanced pace to provide students these stackable credentials which prove career and life readiness.

CESA 3, the region's k-12 intermediary, has been the ignition in backing our schools when it comes to providing future credentials. Starting this school year, CESA 3 provided the National Coalition of Certification Centers' (nc3.net) first certification, Precision Measurement Instrument (PMI) to its schools. PMI provides students with the means to understand the application and method for 21 different measuring tools with a variance from sixteenths to tens of thousandths of an inch. CESA 3's main objective with PMI is that students are as acclimated to these instruments as that of their cell phone. As of my submission, Senator Feyen, students have earned 734 certifications, 734 so far and we have three months and the summer to go.

This summer CESA 3 plans to offer a NC3 Multimeter course, in which the students become adept at the functionality and application of the tool. As we know Senator, the Multimeter is the professional's first tool in the diagnosis and troubleshooting protocol for a wide array of electrical and electronic issues. In our dialogue with industry, CESA 3 heard that if our students can be native to the use of the Multimeter that this too would be advantageous to them.

Going forward CESA 3 plans to offer one if not three certifications this summer. Contingent upon receiving Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development *Fast Forward* funds, CESA 3 would provide its districts with a third NC3 certification in **torque**. Torque is a remote concept to many of us yet its application is universal. Industry is again telling us

that if our centennial human capital comes with a working knowledge and application of torque, this would again be seen to be advantageous to all involved.

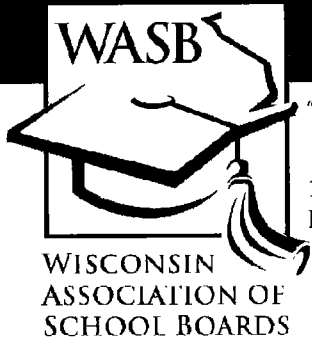
CESA 3 is also looking to provide a Mechatronics course for its schools for fall, 2019. Mechatronics is a multidisciplinary branch of engineering that focuses on the engineering of both electrical and mechanical systems, and also includes a combination of robotics, electronics, computer, telecommunications, systems, control, and product engineering. As we tour our region more employers are incorporating the tenets of this discipline into their practice. CESA 3 needs to insure that our students are equipped with the concepts of Mechatronics, that again, they're not having to be retrained, but retained.

Finally, CESA 3 has identified high demand career clusters and is forging partnerships that will benefit Wisconsin. For example we have partnered with one of our state's hallmark companies, Briggs and Stratton to provide students with access to its Master Service Technician (MST) certification. In what is our most industrious certification endeavor to date, CESA 3 in partnership with Briggs and Stratton plans to avail to every Wisconsin student MST certification that beginning in the fall of 2019, will be CTE Incentive Grant eligible. Having students be able to remedy small engine issues could lead to not only lifelong employment but be the precursor to larger gasoline, diesel and other hybrid engine diagnosis.

In conclusion, the 34 districts of CESA 3 voice unanimous support for Senate Bill 16 as it is synergistic with our plan to ensure that every student in our region is as career and life ready as possible. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me or my team at the following numbers. Thank you.

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"Leadership in Public School Governance"

JOHN H. ASHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TO: Members, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Trade  
FROM: Dan Rossmiller, WASB Government Relations Director  
DATE: February 13, 2019  
RE: SUPPORT for SENATE BILL 16, relating to career and technical education (CTE) incentive grants

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) **supports** Senate Bill 16.

The WASB has supported this grant program from its inception. In the 2015-16 session we testified in favor of the original proposal by the late Sen. Gudex and Rep. Petryk to create this grant program. Last session we testified in support of legislation, also authored by Sen. Feyen and Rep. Ballweg, to remove the per pupil cap and fully fund these grants. We support the added investment Senate Bill 16 makes in fostering a skilled, productive workforce.

The CTE incentive grant program provides school districts with a grant of \$1,000 for each student, who in the prior school year, **both** obtained a high school diploma **and** successfully completed an industry-recognized certification program approved by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The program is administered by the DWD in cooperation with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), with DPI acting as a pass-through entity for making payments to eligible school districts and students.

This bill recognizes that the number of eligible students, including students earning more than one certificate, is growing and funds the program accordingly. That is a healthy thing for a state facing a shortage of skilled workers as baby boomers retire and birthrates decline. We need to train and keep skilled workers in our state. The additional incentive grant funding provided in this bill will help our state meet that goal by helping to ensure the continued growth in our schools of rigorous career and technical education programs that have value to employers and students alike.

In support of the bill, we note the following:

- CTE incentive grants are only awarded to school districts that have an industry-recognized certification program approved by the State Superintendent. Thus, the grant program encourages school districts to establish industry-recognized certification programs. Having industry-recognized certification programs in our public schools provides benefits both to industry and to students. It helps to ensure that students are acquiring skills that will prepare them for success after high school and it helps to ensure that Wisconsin will have the supply of well-trained skilled workers it needs to grow our economy and make our state an attractive location for companies seeking to expand or locate;
- CTE incentive grants are only awarded if the student graduates **and** successfully completes a DWD-approved, industry-recognized certification program—including a DWD-approved, industry-recognized certification program designed to prepare individuals for occupations as fire fighters, emergency medical responders, or emergency medical services practitioners. The structure of these grants encourages school districts to make sure students achieve industry certification.
- The CTE incentive grant program promotes dialogue around addressing workforce shortages in our state. It requires the DPI to confer with the DWD and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) on an annual basis to identify industries and occupations that face workforce shortages or shortages of adequately trained entry-level workers. The DPI must annually notify school districts of the identified industries and occupations that face such shortages and make this information available on its web site.

For all these reasons, we encourage you to support Senate Bill 16.