

S.F. No. 1471 – Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium Grants

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Section 1. [124D.4536] Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium Grants.

Subdivision 1. Definition. Paragraph (a) defines “rural career and technical education (CTE) consortium” as a voluntary collaboration of at least one greater Minnesota service cooperative and other regional public and private partners that work together to provide career and technical education opportunities within the service cooperative’s multicounty service area.

Paragraph (b) states that a consortium that includes more than one service cooperative must designate one service cooperative to serve as the fiscal host.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Paragraph (a) requires a rural CTE consortium to:

- (1) focus on the development of courses and programs that encourage collaboration between two or more school districts;
- (2) develop new career and technical programs that focus on the industry sectors that fuel the rural regional economy;
- (3) facilitate the development of highly trained and knowledgeable students who are equipped with skills needed by regional employers;
- (4) improve access to career and technical education programs for students who attend sparsely populated rural school districts;
- (5) provide capital start-up costs for items including but not limited to a mobile welding lab, medical equipment and lab, and industrial kitchen equipment.

Paragraph (b) states that a rural CTE may:

- (1) address the teacher shortage crisis in career and technical education through incentive funding and training programs; and
- (2) provide transportation reimbursement grants to provide equitable opportunities throughout the region for students to participate in career and technical education.

Subd. 3. Rural career and technical education advisory committee. Requires that in order to be eligible for a rural CTE consortium grant, a greater Minnesota service cooperative must establish an advisory committee to advise the cooperative on the administration of the rural CTE consortium.

Subd. 4. Private funding. States that a CTE consortium may receive other sources of funds in addition to the state funding. The service cooperative that is a member of the consortium must administer all funds.

Subd. 5. Reporting requirements. Requires that a rural CTE consortium that receives funds under this section must submit an annual report on the progress of its activities to the legislature and commissioner of education. Requires the report to include a financial report from the preceding fiscal year.

Subd. 6. Grant awards. States that Minnesota Service Cooperatives may consult with the commissioner to award grants to qualifying CTE consortiums under this section.

Effective Date. Makes this section effective July 1, 2021.

Sec. 2. Appropriations. Appropriates \$4 million in fiscal year 2022 and \$4 million in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the Department of Education for transfer to the Minnesota Service Cooperatives for rural CTE consortium grants. States if the appropriation in the first year is not enough, the 2023 appropriation is available. Clarifies balance in the first year does not cancel but is available in the second year.