

Rep Smith D

From: Krista Nieraeth <krista.nieraeth@2cj.k12.or.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Rep Smith D
Subject: Response

We would like to use our Measure 98 monies to not only enhance or expand our existing CTE Program, but also to maintain it. Maintaining may include buying materials for existing classes (metal, wood, etc.), which is not in anyway enhancing or expanding. We don't have the teacher capacity, nor the student capacity, to expand our program. We can enhance, but with such a small population and with our remoteness and lack of community resources for partnerships (which are up to an hour away), what would we enhance? Equipment? If we cannot afford to purchase materials to use with the equipment, than what good would it be to purchase that equipment? If our students cannot access resources for enhancing programs and we cannot help them due to monetary and personnel constrictions, then what do we do? Yes, there are barriers, but sometimes those barriers for enhancing are not feasible to break down (such as having to travel for internships, shadowing, etc.) due to distance. So small, remote, rural high schools have to find a way to keep the programs up and running using resources found within their own budgets and communities, which are often slim.

Small, remote, rural schools should not be lumped in with schools that have more resources more readily accessible. Rural and remote are two separate words with very different meanings. Bandon, Coos Bay, North Bend, etc., even consider rural, have more access to enhance and expand these programs because of student and teacher capacities and access to community resources.

All small, remote, and rural schools want to keep CTE program running for students, but with the budgets decreasing and costs increasing (meaning that even teacher capacities may have to change to stay in the budget), all have to be prudent with how the district budgets money. If budgets are tight, programs, such as CTE programs, may be on the losing end and have to be either downsized or cut all together. These programs are vital to teaching our students necessary skills for the work force, as well as helping schools provide opportunities that are exciting for students and will help them be excited about being in school. By being able to use the money to help maintain the program, we are ensuring the vitality of our program for our students.

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