

News Release

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Wisconsin receives grant to improve career preparation systems

MADISON — Wisconsin is among two dozen states that recently received a New Skills for Youth grant to support the alignment of career-focused education with high-skill, high-demand jobs.

The Wisconsin education community has a long history of working with business and industry to strengthen career and technical education (CTE), identify career pathways, and develop partnerships for students to gain skills to meet workforce needs. Most recently, the state launched an Academic and Career Planning initiative for students in middle school and high school. It serves as a foundational effort to help students identify career interests and, with their parents and educators, plan coursework and career development activities to further refine those interests. Grant funding to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction builds on these efforts and will support a comprehensive needs assessment to give a complete picture of current career pathways, including gaps that exist, and where work needs to be done to expand opportunities.

“Connecting the knowledge, skills, and habits Wisconsin students are learning in schools to their career aspirations is a key component to their future success,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “We are excited to build upon our efforts currently underway to foster stronger relationships between our various education partners and the state’s business leaders.”

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia received \$100,000 grants through the New Skills through Youth project, a collaboration of the Council of Chief State School Officers, JPMorgan Chase, and Advance CTE. In addition to technical assistance and peer support, the six-month grants will help states to perform a diagnostic assessment of their career preparation system and prepare for a new plan of action to expand career preparation systems. Phase one states that received grants will have the opportunity to apply for approximately 10 phase two grants of up to \$2 million over three years to execute the plans they developed. The New Skills for Youth initiative represents a \$75 million commitment by JPMorgan Chase and Company to expand high-quality, career-focused education programs that lead to well-paying jobs and long-term careers.

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NOTE: More information about the News Skills for Youth grant awards can be found at http://ccsso.org/News_and_Events/Press_Releases/States_Awarded_Grants_to_Improve_Career_Preparation_Systems_for_Young_People.html. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_46.pdf.