K-12 Strong Workforce Program Round 7
Orange County Selection Criteria for Applications

The Orange County K-12 Selection Committee commits to allocating funds in efforts to support a diverse portfolio of investments defined by **targeted industries, geographic service areas, and pathway strategies proposed**.

The K-12 Selection Committee will make decisions based on the merits of the proposed project, the proportionality of the request, alignment with the intent of the legislation, and funding of an application that best meets the region's priorities as set by the regional plan and local labor market demand. **The K-12 Selection Committee encourages applicants to jointly submit applications addressing similar industry needs and sector strategies.**

The K-12 Selection Committee has the discretion to award an amount less than the requested amount based on an applicant's work plan, budget, and the number of students or teachers served.

Considerations for Selection Criteria

If the total funds requested are less than or equal to the total allocation, the K-12 Selection Committee will fund all eligible applications.

If the total funds requested are higher than the region's allocation, funding decisions for eligible applications will be made with the following in mind:

- **Student Programming:**
  - Emphasizes career education activities, programs, and resources designed for students and how the effectiveness of these strategies will be measured.

- **Student Equity:**
  - Objectives and workplan describe efforts to close equity gaps by improving access to and completion of CTE opportunities for disproportionately impacted students.

  - Clearly specify the number of disproportionately impacted students to be served and identify strategies for closing equity gaps from enrollment to job placement.

- **Equitable Distribution:**
  - Low ADA applications will be funded at 100% of their requested amount per the regional funding distribution identified in the RFA.

  - A minimum of one eligible application will be funded per community college district service area.

- **Regional Collaboration:**
  - Shows clear evidence to strengthen career pathway connections between K-12 and post-secondary.

- **Regional Priorities:**
  - How the application addresses a labor market demand and identifies or demonstrates a strategy for filling the demand.

  - How the application includes sectors and pathways that lead to high wage earning potential and opportunity to reach or exceed a living wage.

- **Measurable Outcomes:**
  - Objectives and workplan lead to metrics that can be measured through data.

  - The impact of the project in terms of the number of students and teachers served, partnerships developed with feeder community college districts or community colleges, and employers.

  - Demonstrate clear outcomes that lead to post-secondary and living wage jobs.

- **Budget:**
  - **Purpose:** Ensure grant funds are to provide extra goods, services, materials, and staff coordination positions that would not otherwise be purchased with state, local, or other non-Strong Workforce K-12 funds.

  - **Plan:** Have a detailed plan on how the funds will be used in terms of purchasing equipment, contracting external organizations, staff or instructor salaries, and benefits.

  - **Personnel:** Provide a reasonable justification of funds allocated to supporting staff (both certificated and classified, including benefits) critical to the management and facilitation of the project objectives, work plan, and student activities.

  - **Personnel:** No more than 70% of the total budget of an application is allocated for personnel salaries (both certificated and classified, including benefits).
    - Each education partner within the project must maintain this criteria throughout the grant cycle.
    - Personnel costs with a direct connection to support students will be prioritized.

- **Project Sustainability:** Includes a brief narrative of how the pathways, teachers, and students impacted in the project will be funded and sustained after the K-12 SWP Round 7 project term ends. **The sustainability question is embedded within the Work Plan section under the K-14 Quality Strategy sub-section.**

The K-12 Selection Committee will continue to fund down the slate of applications until allocation is exhausted. Some applications scoring 75 or above may not be funded if the allocation is exhausted prior to reaching them.

Please keep in mind that the application includes positive considerations for:
- Serves "unduplicated pupils, defined as a pupil enrolled in a school district or charter school who is either classified as an English Learner, eligible for a free or reduced-price meal, or is a foster youth (Education Code, Section 42238.02).
- Serves pupil subgroups that have higher than average dropout rates as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (the annual adjusted statewide grades 9–12 dropout rate is 8.2%).
- Includes LEAs located in an area of the state with a high unemployment rate (lead LEAs and/or K–12 Partner Agencies located in an Area of Substantial Unemployment defined asat or above 6.451%).
- Includes LEAs located within a rural school district.
- Includes special populations, as identified by Perkins V.
- In addition, positive consideration will be given to the following characteristics of a proposed project that:
  - Creates one or more new pathways aligned with Vision 2030: STEM, Health, Education & Early Childhood, & Climate Sustainability.
  - Includes first-time K12 SWP applicants who have never received K12 SWP funds or services as a Lead or K–12 Partner Agency in previous rounds of funding.
  - Focus on early college credit, youth apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship, and/or Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy.