

March 22, 2023

Dear Minnesota House Labor Committee:

On behalf of the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public School District, I would like to express our enthusiastic support for increased funding to support Youth Skills Training Program Grants proposed in HF 2755 (Nelson) Governor's biennial budget established for the Department of Labor and Industry, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and the Bureau of Mediation Services.

Youth Skills Training (YST) grants remove barriers for underrepresented students in career and technical courses and scale purposeful collaborations within the community. YST grants positively impact schools, students, employers and communities in three specific ways: 1) promote and support the development of local partnerships; 2) provide students with high quality instruction, safety training, and industry recognized credentials; and, 3) support paid work experience in high-growth and high-demand occupations in the industries of advanced manufacturing, agriculture, automotive, health care and information technology.

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage has received two YST grants: Advanced Manufacturing and Automotive. In Advanced Manufacturing, we embedded OSHA-10 training, exposed students to state-of-the-art technologies, created six new partnerships, and placed underrepresented students in paid work experiences. This spring, we will complete ASE certification of our automotive pathway, place students in paid work experiences, and offer a Girls Car Camp for 8th and 9th grade girls. These unique, potentially life-changing opportunities for students, would not be possible without the YST grants.

We are extremely excited about the possibility of increased funding to support more YST grants throughout the state. YST grant funding will help propel thousands of high-need students toward credentials and experiences in high-wage, high-demand fields, transforming the Minnesota economy and supporting the economic vitality of our nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy L. Funston
Director of Strategic Partnerships and Pathways