



SPECIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

FOR

**SECONDARY AREA TECHNICAL
CENTERS**

Effective June 17, 2005

SPECIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SECONDARY AREA TECHNICAL CENTERS

I. Application/Approval

A. Secondary Area Center Approval

1. An application for a new secondary area technical center must be submitted to the Associate Director of Workforce Training in the Department of Workforce Education (DWE) on or before **October 1**, prior to the school year in which the center is scheduled to open. Guidelines and application forms for a new secondary area technical center may be obtained by contacting the [Associate Director for Workforce Training, #3 Capitol Mall, Luther S. Hardin Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201-1083](#), or by calling **(501) 682-1505**.
2. Priority will be given to areas not currently being served by a center. A center will not be approved within 25 miles of an existing center unless it can be demonstrated that the creation of a new center will not adversely impact adjoining centers.
3. A sponsoring institution/entity (public high school, postsecondary technical institute, two-year college, or educational service cooperative) that has been approved as a secondary area technical center may begin operation with **three occupation specific programs**, but must have **six programs of study in at least five career clusters by the start of the fourth year. Only occupational specific programs will be eligible for secondary area technical center funding.** Other programs will not be eligible for vocational center aid.
4. A secondary area technical center that closes and desires to resume operation must submit a new application to the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities ([SBWECO](#)) for approval. A center that is approved by SBWECO for start-up, but fails to begin operation within a two-year period, shall be considered null and void.

B. New or Expanded Programs

1. For new or expanded program approval, the sponsoring institution/entity shall submit a proposal to the **Deputy Director of Career and Technical Education**, Department of Workforce Education prior to **October 1**, preceding the year in which the program(s) is to be implemented. The application is available in the Career & Technical Education link on the DWE website at [Career and Technical Education](#).
2. New programs must be approved by the Associate Director of Workforce Training before the center can draw vocational center aid.

C. Satellite Locations

1. An existing secondary area technical center or proposed center, approved by the SBWECO may provide satellite location(s) to school districts that are

located **outside the 25 miles or 30 minutes of driving time**. Satellite locations must be shared by **more than one school district**. Satellite locations will be eligible for funding in the same manner as center programs.

2. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be completed, signed by cooperating parties, and on file in the secondary area technical center director's office concerning the operation of satellite locations.
3. **All applications for a satellite location require the approval of SBWECO.**

II. Finance

A. Funding

1. **Vocational center aid** will be calculated and distributed by the Department of Workforce Education based upon each secondary area technical center's eligible student FTE count.
2. The minimum training fee is set in accordance with ACA 6-20-2305 and shall be calculated from the eligible student FTE count of the previous school year.
3. The secondary area technical center will bill each participating high school based upon current enrollment.
4. Funding modifications shall be approved by the SBWECO.

B. Supplemental Funds

1. Secondary area technical centers shall be eligible for new [program start-up](#) funds as outlined in **Program Policies and Procedures for Secondary Programs (available on the Workforce Education website at <http://dwe.arkansas.gov>)**.
2. Secondary area technical centers may from time-to-time be eligible for federal vocational funds. The Department of Workforce Education will inform secondary area center directors of these as soon as they become available.
3. Secondary area technical centers may apply for and receive on its own merits any special grant funds from other agencies. Funding of secondary area centers is not limited to state funding as described above.

III. Expenditures

A. Reporting

1. An [annual expenditure report](#) is to be completed and sent to the Department of Workforce Education.
2. Enrollment data shall be submitted to DWE each semester. Each center will include enrollment verification from each participating high school.

[Enrollment and verification forms](#) are available on the Secondary Area Technical Center website.

3. The center will report to DWE each school year a list of participating high schools ([School Participation Report](#))
4. The center will report to DWE all students enrolled in center programs during the school year ([End of Year Report](#)).
5. Funds not expended in accordance with Act 819 of 2001 shall be carried forward into the succeeding year.

IV. Operations

A. Secondary Area Technical Center Responsibility

1. The management, maintenance, and operation of a secondary area technical center shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring institution or entity in accordance with the policies established by the SBWECO.
2. Failure to properly maintain and operate a secondary area center may result, by recommendation to the SBWECO, closure of the center.

B. Designation of Secondary Area Technical Center Director

1. Each secondary area technical center having a minimum of six programs must employ a vocational director on a half-time or full-time basis.
2. The secondary area center director must hold one of the following credentials: CTE Administrator License
or
Secondary Vocational Director Endorsement

C. Secondary Area Center Council

1. Each secondary area technical center shall have an **active area center council**. The council shall be comprised of **superintendents** of the sponsoring and local school districts participating in the secondary area technical center along with the **director** of the center. When a postsecondary institution is designated as a secondary area technical center, the director or president/chancellor of that institution shall be a member. Additionally, where secondary area technical centers are sponsored by an education service cooperative, the director shall be a member of the council. The secondary area technical center council shall serve in an advisory capacity for the secondary area technical center in all areas of administration and operation, e.g., scheduling, student discipline, program design, etc. The center council may also assist with determining the capacity of a center.
2. An active **advisory council** is recommended for each occupational program area.

D. Instructor Qualifications

1. See [certification/qualifications](#) in Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

E. Employee Policies

1. The sponsoring institution/entity shall adopt official employee policies and procedures, including a salary schedule, sick leave, inclement weather, grievance, benefits, and other policies. These must be adopted by the start of the second semester of operation.

F. Student Handbook

1. The sponsoring institution/entity shall adopt a student handbook outlining the rules and regulations relating to discipline, attendance, hand tools, textbooks, OCR Grievance Procedures, and other matters. **These must be adopted by the start of the second semester of operation.**

G. Class Periods

1. Class periods shall conform to the minimum class hours established by the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and North Central Association (NCA). In order to restructure a program of study, the secondary area technical center may work with the Department of Workforce Education to implement course design and class lengths.

H. Instruction

1. Each approved program offered must follow curriculum [content frameworks](#) and administer [student competency tests](#).

I. Transportation

1. Responsibility for transporting students to and from the local school to a secondary area technical center shall be determined by the secondary area technical center director and the administration of the local school district.

J. Exceptions

1. Expansion of secondary area technical centers into areas not being served is a priority of the Department of Workforce Education. The director may, upon request, make exceptions to the above stated policies when such requests are supported by adequate justification.

V. Definitions

- **Access** is an attempt for every high school student in Arkansas to have the opportunity to participate in any of a minimum of three occupation specific vocational programs offered within 25 miles or 30 minutes of the home schools.
- **Capacity** of a secondary area technical center is determined by multiplying the number of blocks of occupation-specific programs (two or three hours) by 20.

- **Eligible Student** is a student enrolled in the 10 through 12th grades and pursuing a program of study in a secondary area technical center. Only an eligible student shall qualify for vocational center aid and secondary area technical center pass-through funds. This definition becomes effective July 1, 2006.
- **Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)** shall be considered the equivalent of one student attending class for six class periods per year, e.g., one student attending a three period class the full year would equal one-half FTE.
- **Local districts** are the districts in the locality, which are eligible to participate in vocational center programs.
- **Occupation-specific vocational education programs** are a vocational or technical program which have paid employment in specific occupations as their objective.
- **Private and/or home-schooled students** are eligible to participate in secondary area technical center programs through the local school district in which they officially reside.
- **Satellite location** is the extension of a secondary area technical center located outside the boundaries of an existing center (25 miles or 30 minutes of driving time) or to students in isolated areas. Satellite locations will be provided by an approved secondary area technical center, and must be shared by more than one school district. All satellite locations require the approval of the SBWECO.
- **Secondary area technical center** is a public secondary vocational institution organized for the specific purpose of educating high school students in specific occupational/vocational areas. A center will serve students from more than one participating school district. Students eligible to attend a secondary area technical center will generally come from a twenty-five (25) mile radius or thirty minute driving time from the local school. A secondary area technical center must be comprised of three specific vocational programs to begin operation. Also, it must have at least six programs out of five career clusters in operation by the start of the fourth year.
- **Short-term adult vocational classes** are specialized classes organized for the purpose of providing training, retraining, and upgrading of skills for which there is an identified demand in the employment market.
- **Sponsoring institution** is a comprehensive high school, a postsecondary vocational technical institute, a two-year or community/technical college, an education service cooperative, or any other entity authorized by law that has been approved by the SBWECO. The sponsoring institution will function as the fiscal agent, manage, and administer the secondary area technical center. (Reference Act 788 of 1985 and Act 819 of 2001)

RELATED LINKS for Secondary Area Technical Centers:

<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/postsecond.html>

<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/about.html>

<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/CTElogopage.htm>
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/CTESCTENewandExpandedPrograms.htm>
<http://dwe.arkansas.gov/sacdirectorinformation.html>
<http://uark.edu/depts/awecc/content/listing.html>
<http://www.uark.edu/misc/sct/>

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