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## FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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## Career Academy Fund

### Purpose

The Career Academy Fund provides competitive grants to support access to career academy programs with a focus on programming delivered through regional centers. Career academies are career-oriented programs of study that link secondary career and technical education (CTE) to a postsecondary education program through concurrent enrollment coursework. A career academy program may be delivered at a high school, community college, or regional center location.

Regional centers are strategically located throughout the State to maximize student access and availability to numerous high-quality CTE programs. A regional center must provide access to at least four career academy programs. The center is also required to serve either a combined minimum of 120 students from at least two school districts or a minimum of four school districts with no student minimum. The goal is to deliver high-quality CTE coursework for more students across multiple school districts through collaboration, sharing of resources, and cost-sharing for expensive CTE program equipment. Community colleges are often a partner in providing resources to the regional center. The Department of Education (DE) recently completed a [regional center location study](#) to support the equitable expansion of regional centers across the State.

The DE semiannually awards competitive grants that do not exceed \$1.0 million per grant application. Priority for grants is given to applications to establish new career academies that are organized as regional centers.

### Funding

Beginning in FY 2020, the Fund received \$1.0 million from the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Fund. SAVE is a one-cent statewide sales tax that provides funding for school infrastructure. As established in Iowa Code chapter [423F](#) and effective FY 2021, a maximum of \$5.0 million annually may be transferred from the SAVE Fund to the Career Academy Fund. The Career Academy Fund may also accept gifts, grants, bequests, other private contributions, State funds, or federal funds. The Career Academy Fund does earn interest that remains in the Fund for expenditure and the balance in the Fund is permitted to carry forward to the next fiscal year for expenditure for this purpose. **Figure 1** summarizes total revenue and expenditures in FY 2023 through estimated FY 2025.

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### More Information

Iowa Department of Education Career Academy Incentive Fund: [educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/cte/iowa-quality/partnerships-and-centers/career-academy-incentive-fund#application-and-resources](https://educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/cte/iowa-quality/partnerships-and-centers/career-academy-incentive-fund#application-and-resources)

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**Figure 1 — Career Academy Fund Resources and Expenses**

	<b>Actual FY 2023</b>	<b>Actual FY 2024</b>	<b>Estimated FY 2025</b>
<b>Resources</b>			
Beginning Balance	\$ 7,255,249	\$ 6,972,273	\$ 8,503,550
<b>Revenue</b>			
Intra State Receipts	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Interest	287,071	506,168	564,189
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$ 5,287,071</u>	<u>\$ 5,506,168</u>	<u>\$ 5,564,189</u>
<b>Total Resources</b>	<u>\$ 12,542,320</u>	<u>\$ 12,478,441</u>	<u>\$ 14,067,739</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
State Aid	<u>\$ 5,570,047</u>	<u>\$ 3,974,891</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,217</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 5,570,047</u>	<u>\$ 3,974,891</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,217</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<u><u>\$ 6,972,273</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,503,550</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 12,149,522</u></u>

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**Iowa Code chapter [423F](#)Iowa Code sections [256.136](#), [256.137](#), [257.51](#), [261E.9](#), and [261E.10](#)Iowa Administrative Code [281—46](#)

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