

Kentucky New Skills for Youth Initiative

Grant monies would be provided for the development of regional career academies throughout the state. *The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) defines regional career academies as all day learning environments created through district partnerships that are based on state and regional labor market information that provide seamless pathways for students beginning in grade 9 that include academic and technical coursework, strong advising systems, dual credit course work, and work-based learning experiences that lead to credentials of value.*

The Kentucky New Skills for Youth (NSFY) Initiative incentivizes the opportunity for local districts to transition state operated area technical centers and locally operated technical centers to regional academies through the collaboration of two or more school districts, a postsecondary partner, and employer engagement.

The Kentucky Department of Education will provide grant funding to the top five regional cohorts that achieve the following:

- Include two or more school districts
- Include at least one postsecondary partner
- Include at least **one state operated area technology center and/or at least one locally operated area technology center** with a plan of transition to regional career academies
- Include an employer driven process that involves business and industry partners representing each demand sector based on Kentucky's labor market information
- Create or revamp career pathways (grades 9-14/16) that are employer-driven based on labor market information for the state and region (link data)
- Provide a plan for **all day** regional career academies for students within the cohort
- Provide a plan to increase opportunities for student achievement, including:
 - Dual credit
 - Work-based learning
 - Industry certifications
- Provide a plan that demonstrates sustainability and the capacity to grow academy opportunities for students within the region