

# Area schools get state workforce skills grants

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WORCESTER – The state announced \$12 million in grants Thursday to 45 schools to acquire technology and expand educational opportunities with an eye toward meeting employers' demand for skilled workers.

The Skills Capital Grants are awarded by Gov. Charlie Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet, which was created in 2015. School applying for the grants are asked to partner with local businesses and align curriculum and credentials with industry demand.

Economic development legislation passed last year established an additional \$75 million for the grants, according to a news release announcing the awards. This round of grants is funded with money the state received from the sale of General Electric's headquarters.

Several Central Massachusetts schools received the grants:

- Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, \$281,000, Culinary Arts Program - Modernize equipment and enable more students to study culinary arts.
- Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical High School, \$375,000, Engineering Innovation Labs - Use newly created innovation labs for engineering and manufacturing students.
- Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, \$384,258, Health Career and Automotive Technician Training programs - Purchase virtual learning technologies for lessons in anatomy and physiology; add high-tech automotive trainers and simulators.
- Mount Wachusett Community College, \$55,643, Healthcare Workforce - Equip a lab at the Leominster campus for prospective certified nursing assistants.

- Northbridge High School, \$225,000, Health Services and IT Innovation Pathway Programs - Purchase equipment for new programs in which students can earn college credits and industry credentials.
- Quinsigamond Community College, \$476,807, Dental Technician Workforce - Help develop a lab for training for students to become dental hygienists and dental assistants.
- Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School, \$260,000, Advanced and Adaptive Manufacturing Training - Introduce elements of additive manufacturing and mechatronics in existing programs in mechanical design, manufacturing, and electrical.
- Uxbridge High School, \$175,000, Information Technology Innovation Pathway - Expose students to computer programming, digital media tools, large-format 3-D imaging and design, visual design, motion capture technology, and editing software.
- Worcester Technical High School, \$210,000, the One Health Initiative - Provide technical instruction to Worcester Tech and other Worcester public schools students in health care programs, as well as adults enrolled in training and professional development programs.